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COVER:
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Straitjacket courtesy of Temple University theatrical costume department
COVER DESIGN:
Ed Detrich

WHY BAD GUYS?

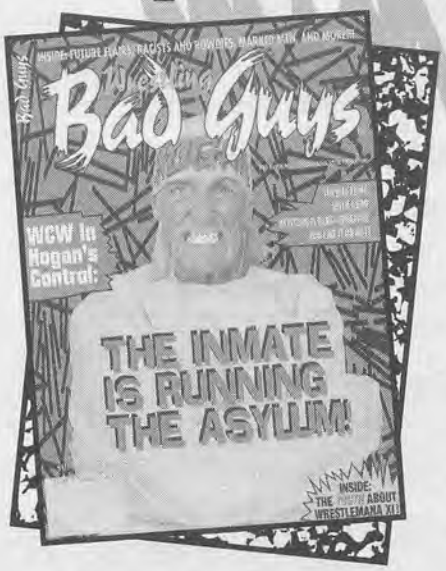
WRESTLING BAD GUYS is a wrestling magazine unlike any other publication on the newsstands.

It is the next step in wrestling journalism, the logical outgrowth of *Wrestling 94: Rulebreaker*, which was the brainchild of veteran wrestling journalist Eddie Ellner. It was Ellner who, in 1985, picked up the mantle of rulebreaking journalism from the legendary Dan Shocket, who died that year.

"Journalism is all about airing *both* sides of the issues," Ellner maintains, "but too often, the only side you get to see is that of the fan-pandering flunkies."

With WRESTLING BAD GUYS, Ellner has the kind of full-length forum for the ideas he displays each month in his widely read columns: *Pro Wrestling Illustrated's* "Off The Top Rope," *Inside Wrestling's* "The Insider," and *Wrestle America's* "Straight Talk."

Opening Bell



THEY JUST DON'T get it, and they probably never will. "They" are the fan favorites, thick-headed managers, and desperate promoters—all wrestling devotees who fail to grasp what it means to be a bad guy. Nowhere was this misunderstanding better demonstrated than at the WCW Uncensored pay-per-view debacle.

On page 28, we present a special story, "WCW Uncensored: ECW Wannabe Couldn't Be." It explores the embarrassing depths to which the major federations plunge when they attempt to capture the essence of rulebreaking.

Why do they do it? Because rulebreaking is alive, noble, and honest. And rulebreaking sells like cold beer on a desert island. What promoters fail to realize is that rulebreaking can't be bottled. When it is artificially manufactured, you wind up with cards like Uncensored, where the promise of hardcore violence leaves you with the pathetic sight of two men wrestling in the flatbed of a truck.

You *cannot* package mayhem and violence. At its best, rulebreaking is an extemporaneous, intuitive art form. You can study Big Van Vader, poke holes in Stan Hansen, and monitor Ric Flair's pulse, and you will still be no closer to understanding the essence of rulebreaking. Promoters, however, are like dictators: That which they cannot understand, they must try to control—or ultimately destroy. Uncensored set rulebreaking back at least 25 years. What was offered up as a card guaranteed to satisfy the fans' craving for untethered violence wound up being nothing more than a $27.95 ripoff. And the fans weren't the only ones feeling violated.

"I don't need someone telling me to uncensor myself," a disgusted Big Van Vader said after his (or was it Ric Flair's?) strap match loss to Hulk Hogan. "Let me wrestle the way I want. Better yet, leave me alone. I'm fine by myself!"

We couldn't agree more.

Also in this issue is another sobering tale of fan favoritism run amuck. "WCW In Hogan's Control: The Inmate Is Running The Asylum" chronicles the way Hulk Hogan was allowed to waltz in, take over the joint, and rule it with his own iron fist.

The news isn't all bad. On page 32, we reveal why "Wrestling's Good Guys Face A Summer Of Hell," and why it will be a season to remember for rulebreakers everywhere.

Ever wonder who the wrestler most likely to become the next Ric Flair is? Does such a wrestler even exist? On page 60, we offer a list of five pretenders to the throne in "The Flair Of The Future? Five Man Who Can Fill The 'Nature Boy's' Boots."

And, finally, a story I let slide due to popular editorial demand: "Our Investigation Proves: Jerry Lawler Was Right! Bret Hart Is A Racist!" Take it for what it is. Add to that "The Truth," an interview with the newly reformed Big Bubba Rogers, and the other usual good stuff, and you get an issue that will set the record—as well as your own limited understanding of wrestling's bad guys—straight.

Until next time, remember: The hell you raise is the hell you reap.

Eddie Ellner

Wrestling Bad Guys

PUBLISHER ..... Stuart M. Saks
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER ..... Craig Peters
SENIOR EDITOR ..... Bill Apter
MANAGING EDITOR ..... David Lenker
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ..... Brandi Mankiewicz
EDITORIAL CONSCIENCE ..... Eddie Ellner
ART ASSOCIATES ..... Tina Filice
..... Jon Gerner
..... Joseph Kalman
..... Alex Krasnopolsky
..... Lisa Ryan
SENIOR WRITERS ..... David Rosenbaum
..... Andy Rodriguez
..... Chris Bernucca
..... Eddie Ellner
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR ..... Bob Eddy
PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES ..... Cliff Campo
..... Bernard V. Thompson III
..... Ron Frankhouser
PHOTO EDITOR ..... Jason Ross Lavin
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS ..... Matt Brock
..... Elizabeth A. Hunter
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT ..... Ed Emelett

VICE PRESIDENT/MARKETING
David Gerhardt

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/CIRCULATION
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Robert Nucci

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES
P.O. Box 910
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GOODBYE TO GILBERT

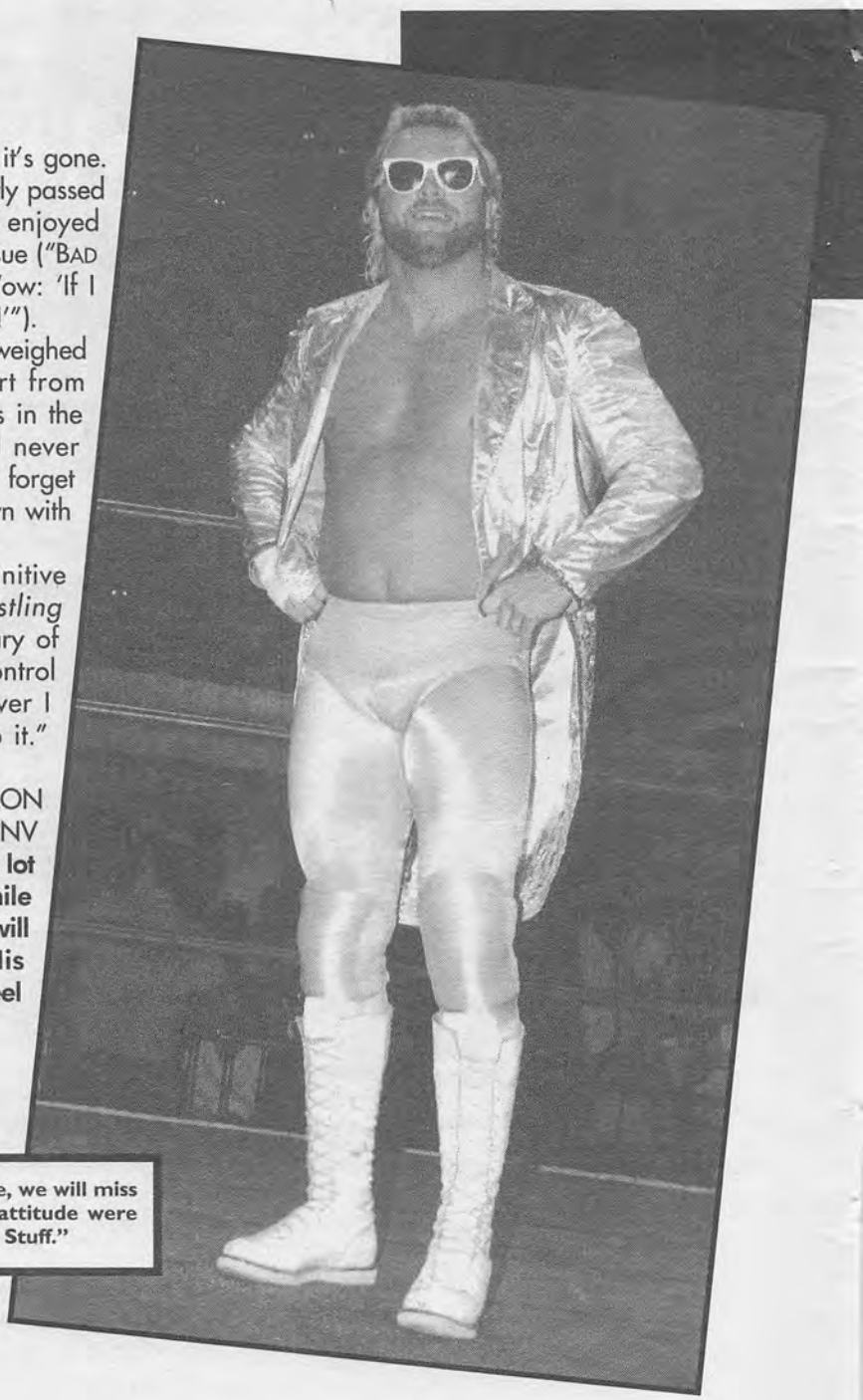
You don't know what you've got until it's gone. The great "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert recently passed away, and I miss him already. I really enjoyed reading about him in the Spring 1995 issue ("BAD GUYS Classic: Eddie Gilbert's Sadistic Vow: 'If I Can't Beat Cactus Jack, I'll Bleed Him Dry!'").

The fact that he was only 5'10" and weighed just 222 pounds couldn't stop Gilbert from becoming one of the fiercest competitors in the sport's history. He gave it his all and never backed down from anyone. Who could forget the time he tried to run Jerry Lawler down with a car?

Gilbert once came up with the definitive rulebreaker quote during a *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* "Press Conference" in February of 1992, saying "I don't *want* to have control over what I'm doing, pal. I do whatever I damn well please, anytime I wanna do it." Spoken like a true bad guy.

HARRY SIMON
Las Vegas, NV

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have received a lot of mail lamenting Gilbert's death. While his passing was a shock to us all, we will remember him as one bad dude. His untimely loss will be one the sport will feel for a long time.



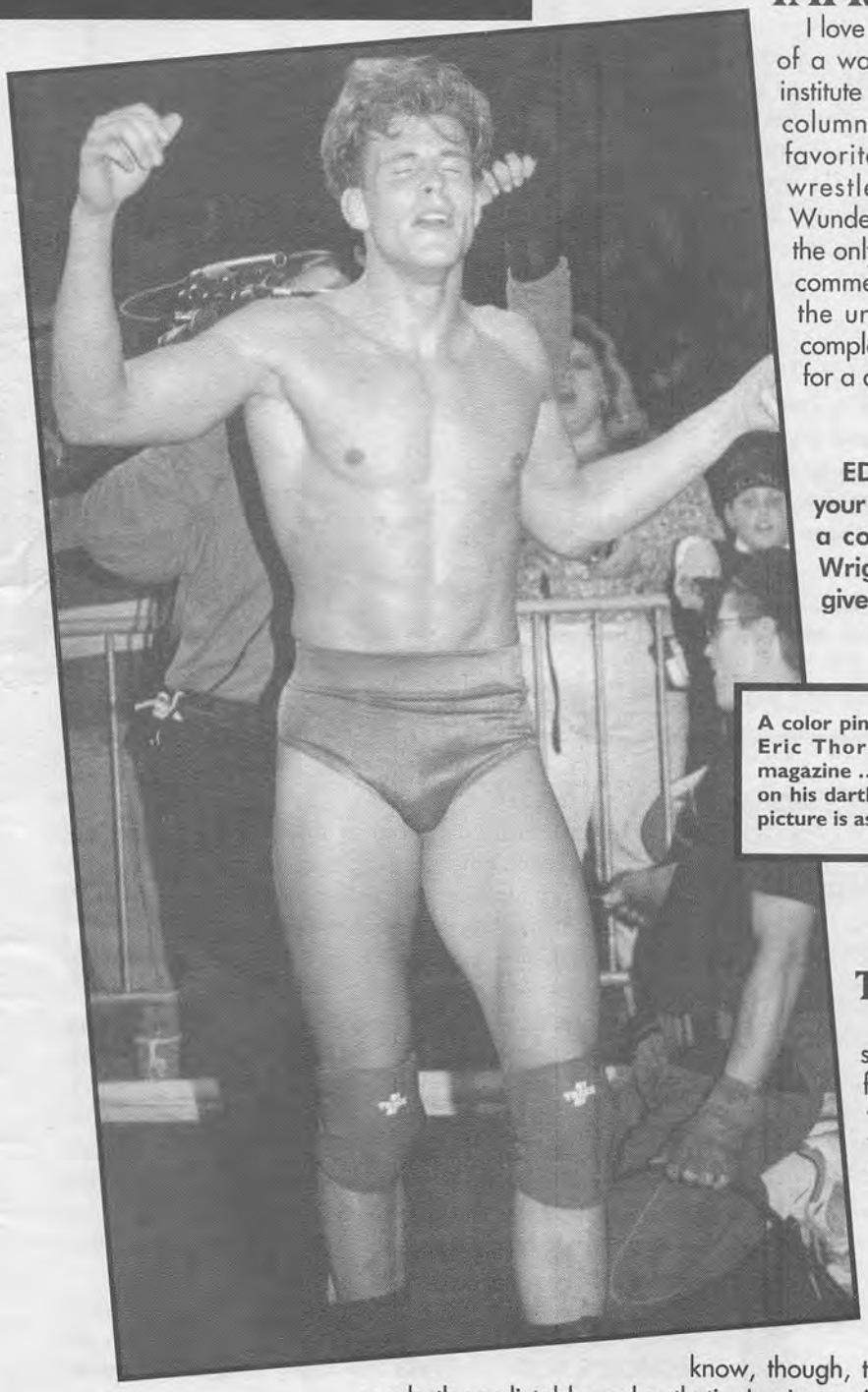
Like all good fans of rulebreakers everywhere, we will miss Eddie Gilbert. His sadistic nature and bad attitude were nothing if not admirable. Rest in peace, "Hot Stuff."

IMPROVE ON GREATNESS

I love WRESTLING BAD GUYS, but I've thought of a way to improve it. I think you should institute a "Goody-Two-Shoes Of The Month" column featuring the most annoying fan favorites. The inaugural most annoying wrestler would have to be "Das Wunderpunk" Alex Wright. In my opinion, the only thing good about his matches is the commentary of Bobby Heenan. If you get the urge, you could add a color pinup, complete with a bull's-eye target just right for a dartboard.

ERIC THORNTON
Kent, WA

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're considering your idea, but just the thought of putting a color pinup of someone like Alex Wright in our magazine is enough to give us dry heaves.



A color pinup of Alex Wright is what reader Eric Thornton would like to see in this magazine ... so he could tear it out and put it on his dartboard. Sorry, this black and white picture is as far as we'll go.

TO EACH HIS OWN

Not all of your loyal readers are strict fans of the dark side. I don't root for wrestlers based solely on their "good guy/bad guy" status. I thought Tatanka was a tomahawk-chopping fool as a fan favorite, and I think he's a tomahawk-chopping fool now. I liked Bret Hart as a rulebreaker, and I still like him now. I will root for Cactus Jack, good or bad, over The Honky Tonk Man any day. I do know, though, that the vast majority of fan favorites are both predictable and pathetic. I enjoy seeing Big Van Vader plow into Hacksaw Duggan an much as the rest of you, but any self-respecting wrestling fan will throw Bunkhouse Bunk and Jeff Jarrett in along with Doink the Clown and Johnny B. Badd as feeble representatives of true wrestling talent.

J.C. YOUNTS
San Diego, CA

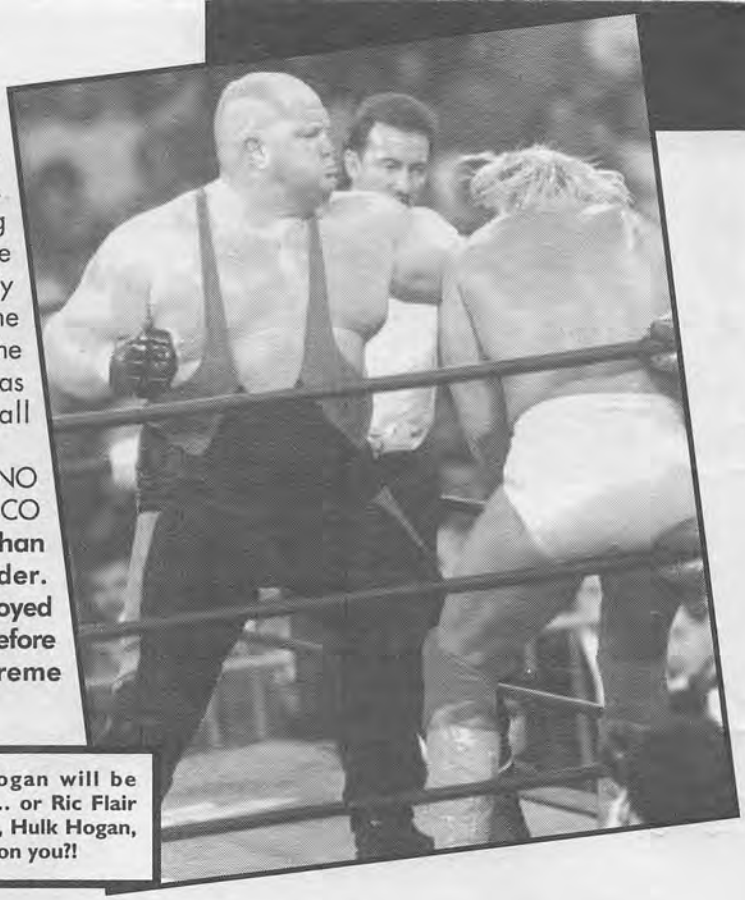
EDITOR'S NOTE: We like to believe that all of our readers are of a different breed. We also think that some rulebreakers are as pathetic as most fan favorites, but just about anyone is better than Hacksaw Duggan.

IN-VAD-ING FORCE

It's about time that chump Hogan realizes he doesn't have what it takes to beat Big Van Vader. In my opinion, the two worst days in wrestling history were the day Hogan beat Ric Flair for the WCW World title and the day Hogan supposedly ended Flair's career. I do think that Flair is the greatest wrestler ever, but I think Vader will be the man to give Hogan the kind of beatings he has always deserved. Death to Hogan and all "Hulkamania" punks!

NATHAN RYNO
Broomfield, CO

EDITOR'S NOTE: We love nothing more than watching Hogan getting destroyed by Vader. Except, maybe, watching Hogan getting destroyed by Vader and Flair. It is only a matter of time before "Hulkamania" is laid to rest by these supreme sadists.



Don't worry, fans, Hulk Hogan will be destroyed by Big Van Vader ... or Ric Flair ... or both. Whatcha gonna do, Hulk Hogan, when "Vadermania" runs wild on you?!

FESTERING FEUD

I think that it's a shame the Rotten brothers are destroying each other instead of carving up all the pretty boys that are just begging for a good beating. This ECW feud is a little different than that *other* brother feud—the one in the WWF. Ian and Axl go into the ring and try to kill each other with any object they can find.

Why are these two maniacal men wasting their time, energy, and blood on each other when there are too many wimps out there that deserve to be beaten to a bloody pulp? I can think of a dozen teams that the Rottens could annihilate instead of each other. Axl and Ian should reconcile—for the good of rulebreakers everywhere. The whole situation just brings to mind a popular line that came out of the mouth of figure skater Nancy Kerrigan: "Why? Why? Why?"

SHANNON D'AMATO
Hazleton, PA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Axl and Ian really should reconsider their feud, but until they do, we suggest that you enjoy the great action. And if they are this brutal toward each other now, we wonder how their poor mother handled their fights when they were kids! We're willing to bet she was twice as tough as Alundra Blayze!

One reader is suggesting that Ian and Axl Rotten patch up their differences and start beating up others instead of each other. As long as they're beating up somebody, we don't care who it is. The bloodier the better!

A COLLECTOR'S EXTRAVAGANZA!

March 1991

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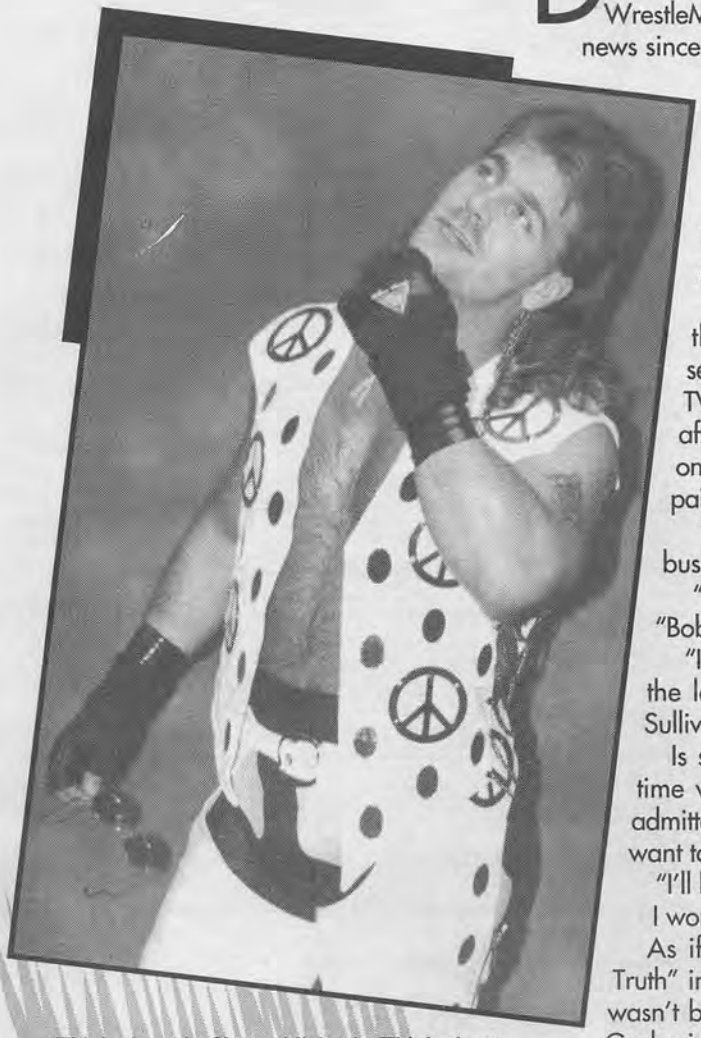
For journalistic integrity and the straight story—that hasn't been filtered through the jaundiced eye of fan pandering—look no further than

The Truth

By Eddie Ellner

DID **VINCE McMAHON** put saccharine in the WrestleMania drinking water? **Shawn Michaels** and **Diesel's** post-WrestleMania kiss-and-make-up fest is the most disappointing news since *My So-Called Life* was taken off the air. Losing Diesel to the cheer squads confirmed suspicions that the WWF World champ had difficulty thinking for himself. But Michaels, we thought, was different. Michaels was the total rulebreaking package: equal parts arrogance and talent. It will take a long time to forgive him for turning a deliciously lethal feud into *Forrest Gump II*.



Think about it, Shawn Michaels. Think about how great you could have been had you remained on the wrong side of the rules. Think about how stupid you'll look hanging around with Diesel. Come back, young man, there's still time!

"I didn't want to see the buffoon get killed!" With those words did **Bobby Heenan** bid *adieu* to what seems like a lifetime of rulebreaking? At a recent WCW TV taping, Heenan intervened on behalf of **Dave Sullivan** after Sullivan had tried to stop **Big Van Vader's** assault on **Tracey Paton**—an error in judgment Sullivan quickly paid for when Vader and **Ric Flair** pounced on him.

"Don't interfere," Vader said. "Mind your own business, and I'll mind mine."

"No one tells me when enough is enough," said Flair. "Bobby Heenan should know better."

"I didn't want Flair to get arrested," Heenan said. "By the look in his eyes, I thought he was going to murder Sullivan."

Is sitting on the sidelines getting too difficult for the 10-time world champion? "Sometimes it's impossible," Flair admitted. "It's hard not to get involved. It's in my blood to want to be in there. What do you expect?

"I'll be back—don't you worry!"

I won't, Ric.

As if losing Michaels to the big fella (temporarily, "The Truth" insists; Michaels will again shop in rulebreaking stores) wasn't bad enough, now the *really* big fella gets into the act.

God wins another by kayo: **Jake Roberts**, "The Snake" in wrestling's Garden of Eden, has become the ultimate fan favorite. Roberts' decision to retire from the ring to devote his time speaking to children and others in need of salvation makes you wonder who's doing the Lord's recruiting these days.

Yet life balances out—**Larry Oliver**, Pacific Championship

Wrestling's "Mr. Nice Guy," is turning in his toothy smile. "Being nice never got me anywhere," Oliver said, slamming his fist into a press conference podium. "I'm mad as hell and not going to take it anymore."

Michaels for Oliver? Yes, it's been a tough spring.

Who is **Lawrence Taylor**? The "bad boy" of pro football who snapped **Joe Theismann's** leg in two, or the leisure suit-wearing idiot who thinks playing a round of golf is a hard day's work? Why couldn't it have been **Dennis Rodman** out there against **Bam Bam Bigelow**? Bigelow absolutely embarrassed **Ted DiBiase** and his entire **Corporation** by losing to Taylor and, in this man's not-so-humble opinion, deserves to be thrown out of the organization. Only a man who's a fan favorite at heart wouldn't have found a way to break a non-wrestler like Taylor in two.

Why is it that pro wrestling can no longer attract the high caliber ex-other-sport-playing athlete on more than a part-time basis?

One word? Union. No self-respecting professional athlete accustomed to union-player protection would risk staking out on their own as an independent contractor, which is what most wrestlers are, and why a wrestling strike could never happen. Wimps.

From the What Were They Thinking Dept.: What's the big fuss over the disappearance of **Dustin Rhodes** and **Blacktop Bully**? Egg sticks, and the amount these men have on their faces after their tussle in the back of an 18-wheeler will take many moons to scrape off.

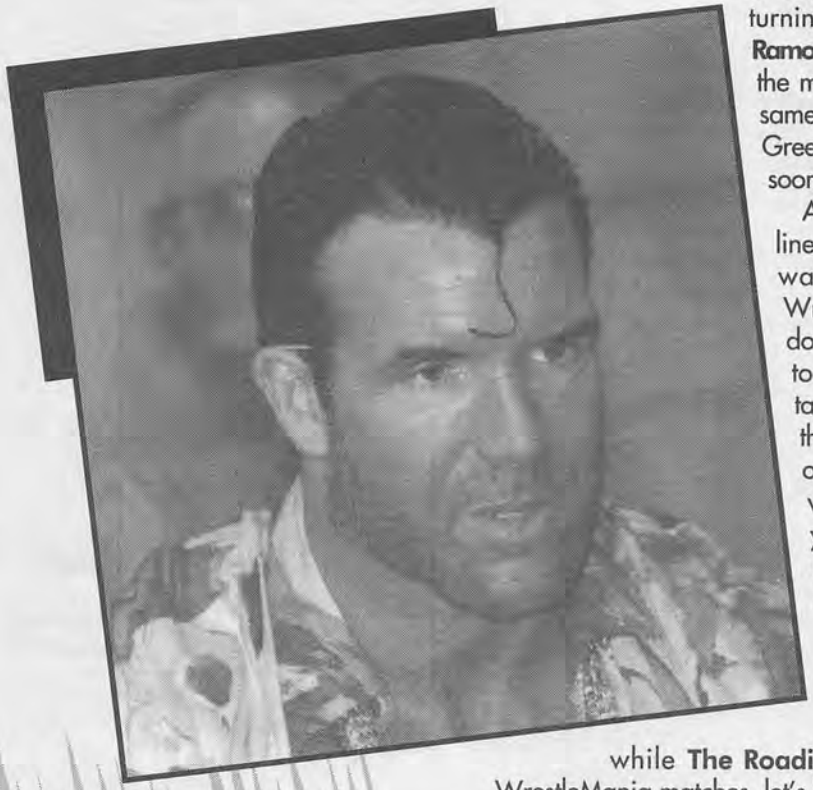
For those of you who say we never met a fan favorite we liked,

Bobby Heenan is forgiven for helping Dave Sullivan. I believe him when he says he only wanted to make sure Ric Flair didn't do something stupid. Heenan just better not do it again.

Lawrence Taylor is lucky he can still walk after WrestleMania XI. A real man would have beaten him to a bloody pulp. I'm just not so sure Bam Bam Bigelow is a real man anymore.

"The Truth" offers its congratulations to the UCLA Bruins, who proved nice guys can finish first without losing their dignity.

What we're seeing now is a classic example of rulebreaker fusion at work. Look at the roster of rulebusters turning fan faves—Diesel, Michaels, **Razor Ramon**—being embraced (and polluted!) by the mainstream wrestling culture in much the same way the music of alternative bands like Green Day, Nirvana, and Soundgarden will soon be used to sell beers and automobiles.



Razor Ramon will never be the Intercontinental champion again. If he were smart, he would have found a way to deal with The Roadie's interference by now. Ramon has never been smart.

Add WrestleMania: Is this the end of the line for **Bob Backlund**? **Bret Hart** found a way to reverse his chicken wing at WrestleMania XI. I heard Backlund was down in Florida for spring break, where he took a few buxom, bikini-clad babes to task for showing a little too much of what they shouldn't be showing. Said the youth of America was in big trouble. I agree with Mr. Backlund on a lot of issues, but you'll never hear see me saying anything bad about a beautiful woman in a string bikini.

Let's hope Razor Ramon never gets another shot at the Intercontinental title. After WrestleMania XI, it became clear that he'll never beat **Jeff Jarrett** while **The Roadie** is around. As for the other three WrestleMania matches, let's look at them one-by-one.

Lex Luger and **Davey Boy Smith** vs. **Eli** and **Jacob Blu**: Who cares who won? Davey Boy pinned Jacob, but all that proved was that he and Luger could beat a team that struggled in ECW, WCW, Smoky Mountain, and Japan. Luger and Smith might well win the WWF World tag title soon, but that doesn't mean anything today.

The Undertaker vs. **King Kong Bundy**: What a shame it was to see Bundy, once a man with so much rulebreaking potential, go down so easily and so quickly (he was pinned at 6:38). What a shame also to see five grown men (Undertaker, **Paul Bearer**, DiBiase, Bundy, and **Kama**) fighting over an urn at ringside.

Owen Hart and **Yokozuna** vs. **The Smokin' Gunns**: Hart and Yokozuna won the WWF tag belts, if anyone cares. It was good to see the big fella back, though—back, and bigger and better than ever. If you ask me, he has no business being in any tag team. He's big enough to be his own tag team.

Welcome to the show, **Big Bubba Rogers**. While a pinfall victory over **Sting** doesn't mean what it used to be, Rogers' clean win over mascara boy at WCW Uncensored established him on the vanguard of rulebreakers stepping up to the challenge.

Still waiting for Bret Hart to change his niche and make the switch. "The Truth" is willing to part with a T-shirt, tote bag, and dinner for three at any fast-food restaurant in America if Hart comes out of the rulebreaking closet once and for all.

We double that offer to the man, woman, or pit bull who puts **Hacksaw Duggan** out of wrestling for good.

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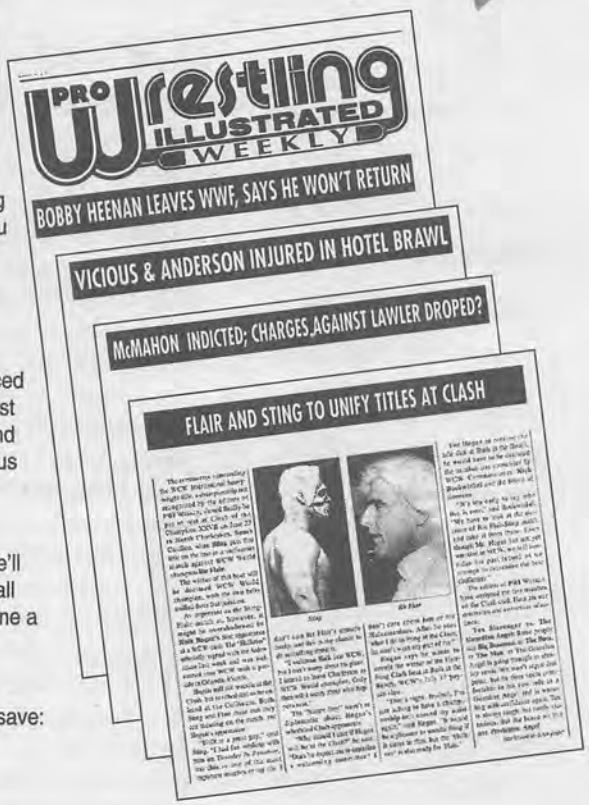

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2581/07-94

Bad Guys

For period ending April 14, 1995

You've never seen ratings like these before! That's because we rank according to rule-breaking ability (or lack thereof), not mere wins and losses. In these ratings, both men and women qualify. Our criteria are brutality, craftiness, and violence—qualities of the wrestlers in our Top 20. Conversely, those in the Bottom 20 are those simpering fan favorites, wrestlers with a blind belief in their own scientific ability, or just plain hypocrites

TOP 20

1 **BIG VAN VADER** 450, Denver, CO
Has a "Flair" for beating Hogan
2 **SID VICIOUS** 318, West Memphis, AR
*Shawn **does** need you*
3 **BIG BUBBA ROGERS** 310, Cobb County, GA
The name has a nice ring to it
4 **JEFF JARRETT** 230, Nashville, TN
Just try to take his gold, chico
5 **OWEN HART** 227, Calgary, Alberta
You look wonderful in gold
6 **ARN ANDERSON** 249, Minneapolis, MN
Box this, Johnny B.!
7 **KING KONG BUNDY** 446, Atlantic City, NJ
Squashing everyone in his path
8 **STEVE AUSTIN** 251, Hollywood, CA
Ready to win his first world title
9 **HAKUSHI** 231, Tokyo, Japan
Defending his country with honor
10 **KEVIN SULLIVAN** 252, Boston, MA
Busy "Butchering" Beefcake
11 **MENG** 274, Tonga
Great bodyguard, better wrestler
12 **BOB BACKLUND** 234, Princeton, MN
Starting to let us down
13 **YOKOZUNA** 568, Samoa
Good to have him back
14 **TERRY FUNK** 247, Amarillo, TX
Continues to amaze—and raise hell
15 **KAMA** 340, Las Vegas, NV
*Enjoy your success ... you've **urn**-ed it!*
16 **AVALANCHE** 502, Montreal, Quebec
Could beat Sting, Savage, and Hogan all at once
17 **TATANKA** 250, Pembroke, NC
We're worried ... he couldn't beat Lex
18 **THE SANDMAN** 244, Philadelphia, PA
Burns anyone who gets in his way
19 **BUDDY LANDELL** 236, Los Angeles, CA
A Smoky Mountain terror
20 **GREG VALENTINE** 243, Seattle, WA
Will never go away

BOTTOM 20

1 **HULK HOGAN** 275, Venice Beach, CA
Keeps getting more pathetic
2 **SHAWN MICHAELS** 234, San Antonio, TX
Why? What happened? Tell us it's not true!
3 **DIESEL** 356, Las Vegas, NV
Bring back Vinnie Vegas
4 **STING** 260, Venice Beach, CA
Take off the mascara and fight like a man
5 **THE UNDERTAKER** 328, parts unknown
Let's stuff him into his urn and bury him at sea
6 **BRET HART** 235, Calgary, Alberta
A racist ... and not a talented one
7 **RANDY SAVAGE** 237, Sarasota, FL
Isn't it fun being Hogan's lackey?
8 **RAZOR RAMON** 287, Miami, FL
*Bet he wishes **he** had a roadie*
9 **JOHNNY B. BADD** 235, Macon, GA
*Can you find a **third** sport you're lousy at?*
10 **DAVEY BOY SMITH** 245, Leeds, England
Only a fool would team with Luger
11 **HACKSAW DUGGAN** 280, Glens Falls, NY
Fading very, very, very fast
12 **BRUTUS BEEFCAKE** 273, San Francisco, CA
The Man With No Brain
13 **BAM BAM BIGELOW** 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
Simply put: an embarrassment
14 **LEX LUGER** 265, Chicago, IL
Reduced to a WWF afterthought
15 **ALEX WRIGHT** 220, Berlin, Germany
Keep dancing, pretty boy!
16 **BOBBY BLAZE** 222, Charlotte, NC
Prelim bum becomes SMW champ—how ridiculous
17 **ADAM BOMB** 292, Harrisburg, PA
His career has been nuked
18 **THE KID** 212, Minneapolis, MN
Someone should snap him in two
19 **BILL DUNDEE** 219, Melbourne, Australia
You're old
20 **DAVE SULLIVAN** 283, Boston, MA
Keeps embarrassing the family

Ratings

Steve Austin

WCW
World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA

1–BIG VAN VADER
(1) 450, Denver, CO
2–STING
(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA
3–ARN ANDERSON
(4) 249, Minneapolis, MN
4–RANDY SAVAGE
(7) 237, Sarasota, FL
5–HACKSAW DUGGAN
(6) 280, Glens Falls, NY
6–JOHNNY B. BADD
(3) 235, Macon, GA
7–BUBBA ROGERS
(–) 310, Cobb County, GA
8–STEVE AUSTIN
(–) 241, Dallas, TX
9–ALEX WRIGHT
(–) 222, Berlin, Germany
10–MENG
(–) 294, Tonga

WWF
World Champion:
DIESEL
(C) 356, Las Vegas, NV

1–JEFF JARRETT
(1) 230, Nashville, TN
2–THE UNDERTAKER
(6) 328, parts unknown
3–RAZOR RAMON
(2) 287, Miami, FL
4–ALDO MONTOYA
(–) 225//Lisbon, Portugal
5–BRET HART
(3) 234, Calgary, Alberta
6–BAM BAM BIGELOW
(–) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
7–TATANKA
(–) 250, Pembroke, NC
8–KING KONG BUNDY
(7) 446, Atlantic City, NJ
9–LEX LUGER
(8) 265, Chicago, IL
10–BOB BACKLUND
(9) 234, Princeton, MN

USWA
USWA Champion:
RAZOR RAMON
(–) 287, Miami, FL

1–BRIAN LEE
(–) 251, Los Angeles, CA
2–BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(1) 230, Memphis, TN
3–BILL DUNDEE
(3) 219, Melbourne, Australia
4–GORGEOUS GEORGE III
(–) 221, Charlotte, NC
5–SPELLBINDER
(5) 246, parts unknown
6–TOMMY RICH
(4) 248, Hendersonville, TN
7–JERRY LAWLER
(2) 234, Memphis, TN
8–JACK HAMMER
(8) 325, Allentown, PA
9–DOUG BASHAM
(9) 228, Memphis, TN
10–DOUG GILBERT
(6) 241, Lexington, TN

ECW
ECW Champion:
SHANE DOUGLAS
(C) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

1–TOMMY DREAMER
(–) 245, Yonkers, NY
2–SABU
(2) 220, Bombay
3–CACTUS JACK
(5) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
4–TERRY FUNK
(–) 247, Amarillo, TX
5–2 COLD SCORPIO
(7) 222, Denver, CO
6–CHRIS BENOIT
(8) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
7–DEAN MALENKO
(6) 216, Tampa, FL
8–THE SANDMAN
(10) 244, Philadelphia, PA
9–911
(9) 310, parts unknown
10–TASMANIAC
(4) 221, Tasmania

SMOKY MOUNTAIN
Smoky Mountain Champion:
BUDDY LANDELL
(2) 236, Los Angeles, CA

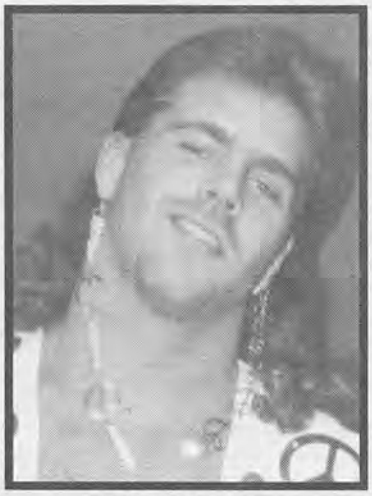
1–BOBBY BLAZE
(–) 222, Charlotte, NC
2–TRACEY SMOTHERS
(4) 227, Atlanta, GA
3–TONY ANTHONY
(1) 235, Bucksnort, TN
4–BOO BRADLEY
(3) 310, parts unknown
5–AL SNOW
(–) 232, Lima, OH
6–UNIBOMB
(8) 345, parts unknown
7–KILLER KYLE
(–) 303, Atlanta, GA
8–D-LO BROWN
(10) 305, Bronx, NY
9–ROBERT GIBSON
(–) 225, Pensacola, FL
10–RICK MORTON
(7) 228, Memphis, TN

INTERNATIONAL
Triple Crown Champion:
STAN HANSEN
(6) 322, Borger, TX

1–MITSUHARU MISAWA
(2) 247, Saitama, Japan
2–SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(3) 287, Gisu, Japan
3–TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(C) 245, Tizhigi, Japan
4–BIG VAN VADER
(4) 450, Denver, CO
5–THE GREAT MUTA
(–) 245, Tokyo, Japan
6–KONNAN
(–) 237, Mexico City, Mexico
7–NOBUHIKO TAKADA
(7) 231, Yokohama, Japan
8–PERRO AGUAYO
(9) 215, Zacatecas, Mexico
9–KENTA KOBASHI
(5) 261, Tokyo, Japan
10–GARY ALBRIGHT
(10) 340, Billings, MT

Ratings Analysis

What's going on here? What a dark day it was for wrestling on April 3. We here at BAD GUYS were just starting to get over the disappointment of having to watch **Shawn Michaels** get screwed out of the WWF World title at WrestleMania XI, when the unthinkable happened: Shawn went soft. During an interview with **Vince McMahon** on *WWF Monday Night Raw*, Shawn started praising World champion **Diesel** for giving him a great match; he said he had a hard time concentrating because he kept thinking about how good a friend Diesel had been in the past.



Shawn Michaels

As if anyone cared.

A real man would have had the guts to tell it like it is. A real man would have badmouthed Diesel and called him a lousy, cowardly champion, because that's precisely what he is. Not Michaels. He talked about getting a rematch with Diesel without **Sid Vicious** in his corner. He hinted that it was Sid who caused him to lose the match. Well, Shawn, it wasn't Sid who allowed himself to run into Diesel's big boot. It wasn't Sid who couldn't get up after being power-bombed by "Big Daddy Fool." Shawn deserved the beating he got from Sid in the middle of that ring in Poughkeepsie, New York.

This is such a sad story. We had such high hopes for the "Heartbreak Kid." As we mention in a story on page 60, we thought he could be a "**Ric Flair** of the future." We can only hope Michaels is going through a difficult time and will soon realize he will go nowhere as a fan favorite. After all, Flair has occasionally crossed over to the fan favorites' side, but he always comes to his senses. Maybe this is all part of Shawn's master plan. Maybe he just wants to trick Diesel into believing he is his friend. We all know "Big Daddy Fool," being a man of limited intelligence, is easily tricked.

For Michaels' sake, that better be what's going on here. Until we find out for sure that it is, he will be stuck in our Bottom 20, below only the despicable **Hulk Hogan**.

Moving on up ... We'd like to extend warm welcomes to **Big Bubba Rogers** and **Hakushi**, both of whom make their first appearances in our Top 20. Rogers, who wasted so many potentially good years of his career wrestling as a fan favorite, is showing a lot of promise now that he is a rulebreaker again. He made **Sting** look like the washed-up blond beach bum that he is at WCW Uncensored when he easily pinned him.

Hakushi deserves the high ranking that he received because he has guts. He knows that **Bret Hart** receives preferential treatment from WWF officials and referees, but he still had the courage to call him a racist ... a man who hates everyone from Japan. It's a serious charge, but we know (as we show you in a story on page 40) **Jerry Lawler** and Hakushi wouldn't make those accusations without proof.

Bam Bam Bigelow

By the way, it's also nice to see no-nonsense newcomers like **Meng** and **Kama** doing so well in such a short time in their respective federations. Meng destroys most of his WCW opponents in less than 20 seconds. And Kama, who at press time had only been in **Ted DiBiase's Corporation** for a few months, has already shown he is serious about doing damage to **The Undertaker** and other WWF fan favorites. Considering the weak competition Meng and Kama are facing (**Hacksaw Duggan**, Undertaker, and others), it's not surprising they're doing so well!

Speaking of that Corporation ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** is not doing the esteemed Mr. DiBiase's organization proud. There was simply no excuse for his loss to **Lawrence Taylor**, and we don't even like talking about it. The bottom line is, however, that Bigelow, a 368-pound sadistic monster, lost to a football player. He was cleanly pinned in the middle of the ring. We don't know what Bigelow's plans for getting back on track are. For that matter, we don't even know if he has a future with the Corporation. But because he did lose to Taylor and embarrassed rulebreakers (and fan favorites!) everywhere, he has earned a spot in the Bottom 20.

That's all, folks. If you have any complaints about our ratings, keep them to yourselves. Okay, if you must, save up your lunch money, buy a stamp, an envelope, and some paper. Write down your thoughts and send them to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o WRESTLING BAD GUYS, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

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Sting hails from which California beach community?
1) Malibu
2) Pacific Heights
3) Venice Beach
4) Newport Beach

Who managed The Moondogs to the WWF World tag team title?
1) The Grand Wizard
2) Capt. Lou Albano
3) Fred Blassie
4) Bobby Heenan

True or False: Rick Steamboat once briefly held the AWA World title.
1) True
2) False

Which of the following wrestlers has never held the WCW television title (as of December 31, 1994)?
1) Sting
2) Steve Austin
3) Rick Steiner
4) Scott Steiner

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3234/12-94

Balancing Act

So you want to contribute to Apter's mailbag? Go ahead, it's your stamp! Send your trash to:
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By Bill Apter

[Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Bill Apter himself. They do not necessarily represent the editorial views of this magazine.]

AS A CLEAR-THINKING, level-headed member of the professional wrestling media, it concerns me when my ideas are in synch with those of the rulebreaking community (assuming it's possible for those disorganized people to form anything approaching a community). That's why I'm now starting to re-think my opinion about WCW Uncensored.

Elsewhere in this rag, there's a story with the headline, "WCW Uncensored: ECW Wannabe Couldn't Be." The story—I read an unedited version, which means complete sentences and properly spelled words were few and far between—condemns WCW for the March 19 pay-per-view special, calling it a ripoff that misled the fans and failed to deliver on its promises.

That's exactly how I felt after attending WCW Uncensored in Tupelo, Mississippi. When I got home, I watched a tape of the pay-per-view telecast and was even more convinced that WCW Uncensored was the worst pay-per-view of all-time. Like many fans, I was outraged.

I don't mind seeing Col. Parker getting knocked around a little, but I didn't like much of anything that I saw at WCW Uncensored. Eddie Ellner felt the same way. What is this world coming to?

Then I walked into the office on Tuesday morning and picked up the messages off my answering machine. One was from Eddie Ellner, and it went like this:

"Hey, Apter, your boys down in Atlanta really blew this one. I'm sure you thought it was a great card, considering your usual high standards."

I was alarmed. I agreed with Ellner. It was a bad card.

But then I got to thinking: Ellner's either always wrong or there's always a hidden agenda behind his opinions. Agree with Ellner or any of these rulebreaker supporters and you're headed down the wrong path.

That's when I grabbed the tape of

WCW Uncensored, hid in the viewing room for a few hours, and tried to come up with a few good things about the card.

Unfortunately, I just couldn't do it, and I'm not sure what this proves, other than that Ellner and his ilk occasionally come up with coherent thoughts. Then I came up with another idea: Action is action, and the one thing fans of rule-breakers and fan favorites—or even objective people like myself—can agree upon is whether a card is good or bad, even if both don't agree on whether they like the results.

On to the mail, where the disagreements are numerous and the thoughts are rarely coherent.

* * *

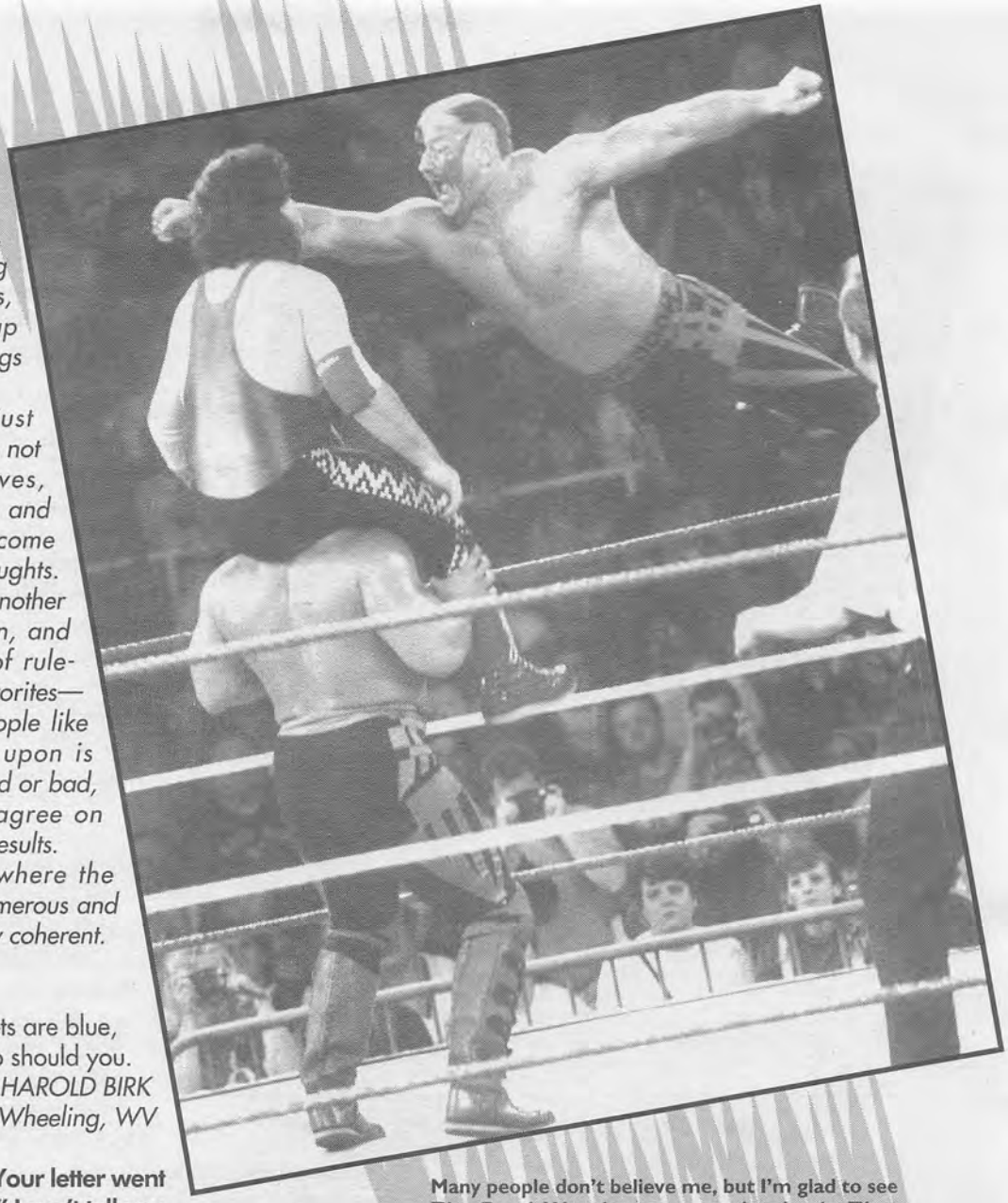
Dear Crapter:

Roses are red, violets are blue,
Bruno's retired, and so should you.

HAROLD BIRK
Wheeling, WV

Dear Mr. Birk:

Very imaginative. Your letter went downhill after "Dear." I can't tell you how many letters I receive that start, "Roses are red, violets are blue." Perhaps you should take a grammar class, if you know where the nearest school is located. What you meant was, "Bruno retired and so should you." What you wrote doesn't make any sense. Maybe you're reading too much Ellner.

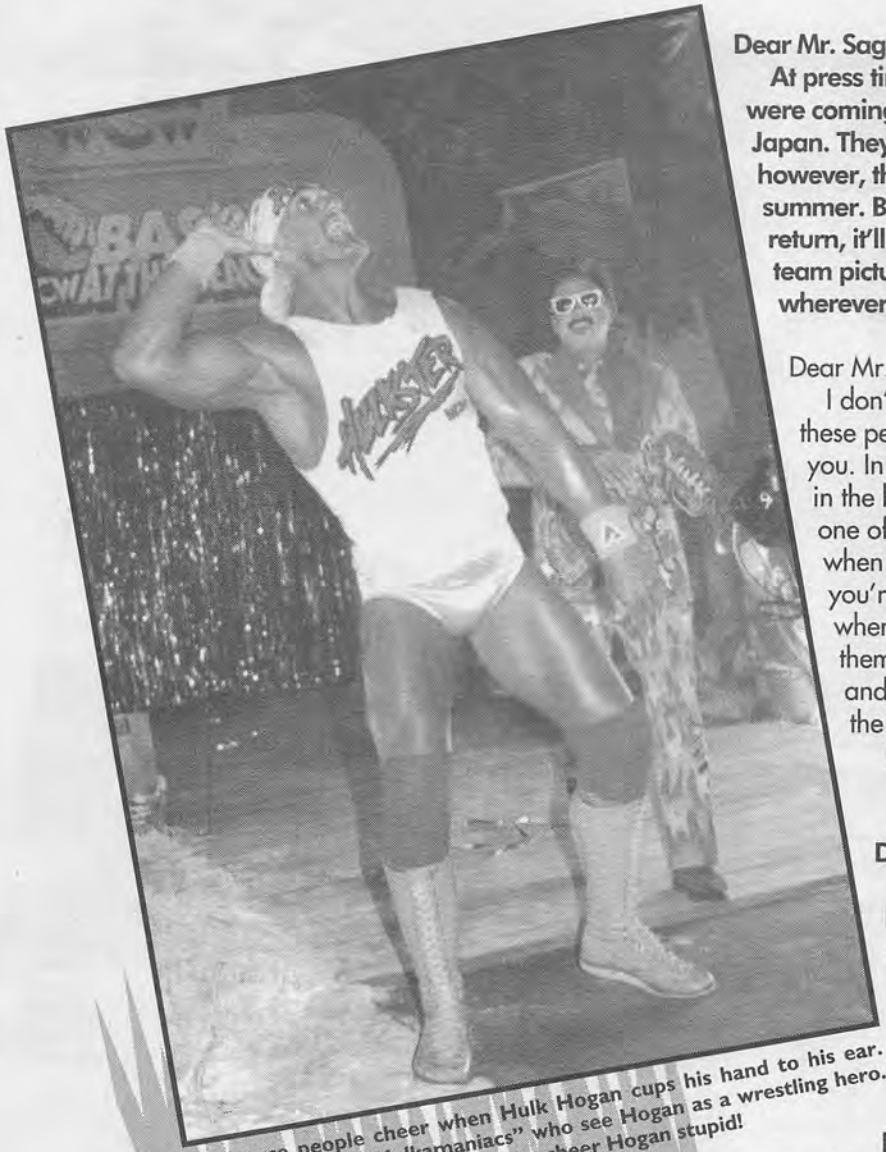


Many people don't believe me, but I'm glad to see The Road Warriors are coming back. That doesn't mean there aren't other great teams around, though.

Apter:

The Road Warriors are coming back to America, and that means all of your teams like The Nasty Boys, The Smokin' Gunns, and Men on a Mission are in big trouble. No longer will fakers like The Patriot and Marcus Alexander Bagwell be able to claim they're top contenders to any title. Animal and Hawk are going to scare everyone away and show the world what it means to be a tag team.

RUSSELL SAGE
Utica, NY



Of course people cheer when Hulk Hogan cups his hand to his ear. They're devoted "Hulkamaniacs" who see Hogan as a wrestling hero. I'm tired of people calling fans who cheer Hogan stupid!

Dear Mr. Sage:

At press time, nobody knew if the Warriors were coming back to America or staying in Japan. They're not talking. I do hear rumors, however, that they'll be in WCW by mid-summer. But I agree that if the Warriors return, it'll put a whole new look on the tag team picture in the WWF or WCW, wherever they choose to wrestle.

Dear Mr. Apter:

I don't understand what's wrong with these people who say horrible things about you. In my opinion, you are the best writer in the business. I laugh every time I read one of your columns. I especially like it when you make believe you know what you're talking about. I think it's great when people are able to poke fun at themselves. I mean, you're bald, ugly, and stupid, and you know it, so what's the big deal?

Keep up the good work.

JOAN HEGEN
Laurel, MD

Dear Ms. Hegen:

I'm always amused by what lengths you people will go to trick me into reading your letters and thinking you're complimenting me. But you didn't have me fooled. I've learned through experience that any envelope that has the address written in black ink and is sealed with a skull and crossbones must come from a person who doesn't have both of their oars in the water. In your case, Ms. Hegen, I'm not sure you ever had any oars.

Dear Bill:

This is a serious question, and I hope you take it that way. I used to love WCW and hate Hulk Hogan, but now I hate both WCW and Hulk Hogan. The thing is, I've noticed that a lot of WCW fans seems to love Hulk Hogan, and he's definitely the one getting cheered the most in all of his matches. Here's my question: Did those stupid "Hulkamaniacs" invade WCW and buy all of the tickets, or did WCW fans become "Hulkamaniacs"?

STEVE APPEL
Charleston, SC

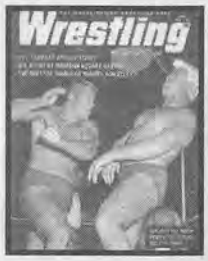
Dear Mr. Appel:

That's a pretty good question. I think the answer is a little of both. Hogan has a lot of loyal fans who will follow him anywhere. Also, I think a lot of WCW fans got caught up in the excitement of "Hulkamania" and decided to join the fun. "Hulkamaniacs" are not stupid, either.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Wrestling historians, rejoice! Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than a decade—but a recent transfer of warehouse inventory from New York to Pennsylvania uncovered a small supply of these classic publications! Obviously, supplies are extremely limited, so all magazines will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis only. Prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the number of available copies. For speediest service, use VISA or MasterCard or make payment by money order or certified check. Please don't send cash! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a memorable piece of wrestling history! Once they're gone, they'll never be offered for sale again—so order today!

WRESTLING REVUE



Published between 1959 and 1964, *Wrestling Revue* is acknowledged as one of the finest series of wrestling magazines ever produced. These beautiful editions, all edited and published by Stanley Weston (founder of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated, The Wrestler,* and *Inside Wrestling,* among so many other titles) set a standard for all wrestling magazines that followed, and are available now for the first time in many years!

Fall 1961 Edouard Carpentier challenges Floyd Patterson, Bruiser vs. Cowboy Bob Ellis, The Zebra Kid, killer holds, action at The Kiel, Nick Bockwinkel vs. Dr. X, and full-color action of the Bastiens vs. Shires & Nelson. **$25**

December 1961 An extensive Buddy Rogers interview, Bobo Brazil, Fred Blassie, Pepper Gomez, the Torres brothers, Whipper Watson, "Sailor" Art Thomas, Ricki Starr, plus a full-color centerfold of Mark Lewin & Don Curtis. **$35**

February 1962 Dick Beyer, Mitsu Arakawa, Edouard Carpentier vs. Lou Thesz, Angelo Poffo, a five-girl battle royal, Don and Jackie Fargo, Billy Zabyszko, Larry Chene, plus a full-color centerfold of Guy & Joe Brunetti. **$30**

April 1962 Wilbur Snyder, Luis Martinez, Madison Square Garden closeup, Yulie Brynner, Billy Wolfe, Don Leo Jonathan vs. Pat O'Connor, closeup on midgets, plus a full-color centerfold of Bearcat Wright. **$30**

June 1962 Eddie Graham, Verne Gagne, wrestlers vs. boxers, Dory Dixon, Yukon Eric, Tony Lanza, Lorraine Johnson vs. Kay Noble, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard, The Crusher, plus a full-color centerfold of Red Bastien. **$25**

December 1963 The Destroyer, "Maniac" Mark Lewin, Paul Diamond, Ernie Ladd, Judy Grable, Bill Watts, Pat O'Connor, Don Duffy, The Scufflin' Hillbillies, plus a full-color centerfold of Lou Thesz. **$35**

February 1964 Edouard Carpentier vs. Killer Kowalski, Florida wrestling, Mad Dog Vachon, Fabulous Moolah, Fritz Von Erich, Rene Goulet, Cyclops, plus a full-color centerfold of Bruno Sammartino. **$35**

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In November 1958, Stanley Weston launched *Boxing Illustrated/Wrestling News,* an innovative concept in sports magazines. Each issue's content consisted of approximately 60 percent boxing and 40 percent wrestling, resulting in the most complete magazine for ring afficianados the world has ever known.

May 1959 ***Boxing:*** Ray Robinson, James Jeffries, Rube Vargas, Willie Pep, Joey Maxim, Denny Moyer. ***Wrestling:*** Gene Stanlee, Larry Hamilton, Happy Humphrey, "Cowboy" Bob Ellis. **$25**

June 1959 ***Boxing:*** Gene Fullmer, Jack Britton, Gustav Scholz, Mauro Vazquez, Rocky Graziano. ***Wrestling:*** Buddy Rogers, Don Leo Jonathan, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Omaya Kato. **$35**

September 1959 ***Boxing:*** Carmen Basilio, the perfect kayo, Tiger Flowers, Joe Brown, Paolo Rosi. ***Wrestling:*** Edouard Carpentier, Ricki Starr, Enrique Torres. **$25**

October 1962 ***Boxing:*** Special edition previewing the Floyd Patterson vs. Sonny Liston bout! ***Wrestling:*** "Handsome" Johnny Barend, Andre Drapp, "Sailor" Art Thomas, five pages of results. **$30**

October 1963 ***Boxing:*** Cassius Clay, Joe Lynch, Frankie Narvaez, Tommy Loughran. ***Wrestling:*** Crusher vs. Verne Gagne, Tony Manous, The Dirty Daltons, results. **$25**

February 1964 ***Boxing:*** Sonny Liston, Joey Archer, 1963 in review, Cassius Clay. ***Wrestling:*** Bruno Sammartino vs. Gorilla Monsoon, Emile Dupre, Bruiser vs. Bob Ellis, results. **$30**

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

WRESTLING REVUE

- ☐ Fall 1961
- ☐ December 1961
- ☐ February 1962
- ☐ April 1962
- ☐ June 1962
- ☐ December 1963
- ☐ February 1964

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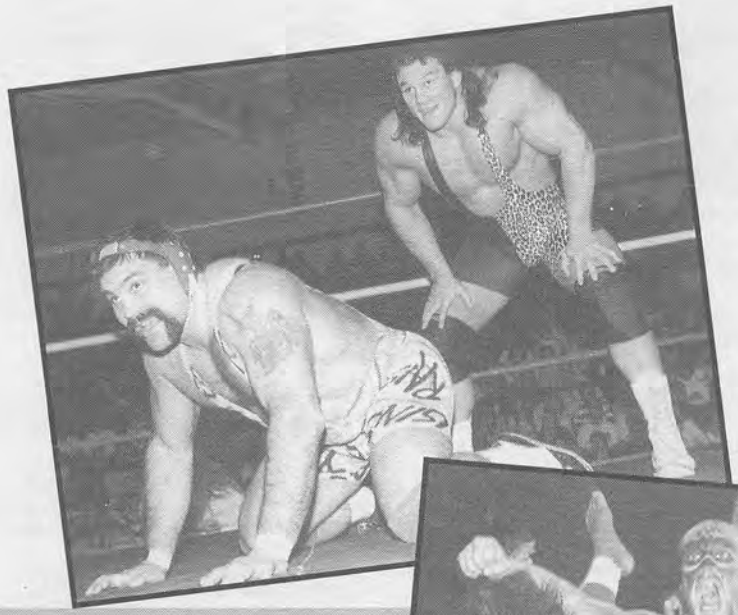
Rulebreaker's Insider

By Freddie Ellner

[Editor's note: Contrary to what you might have heard, Freddie Ellner was not one of the jurors dismissed from the O.J. Simpson case. We at WRESTLING BAD GUYS can't imagine what it would be like to be sequestered for months on end with young Frederick. We do, however, believe his "unique" insights are an interesting part of this magazine, and hope that you aren't too offended by anything he says.]



Are the Steiners (above) gonna fight The Road Warriors (right)? I hope so, because I know The Road Warriors would win, even though Hawk and Animal aren't brothers. They aren't, are they?

IF YOU ASK me, the worst thing that ever happened to Beavis and Butt-head was when they weren't allowed to laugh for a whole week and it turned out to be sex education week. I don't know how they got through it, because I know I couldn't. I think I said in the last issue, but I forget. I don't care what you say, Beavis and Butt-head are still the coolest dudes on television—them and that Pamela Anderson babe. She's hot, although I don't know why she married a guy with so many tattoos. If she would marry me, I would buy some tattoos, too.

To me, the only thing worse than that sex education thing would be not getting to watch wrestling for a whole week. Did you see WCW Uncensored? I know my cousin Eddie didn't like it. He said something about it not being as good as ECW, but I don't know what ECW has to do with it because it was WCW, not ECW. There weren't any ECW wrestlers on the card. Anyway, remember when Dustin Rhodes and Blacktop Bully were fighting in the back of that truck? That was the coolest thing I ever saw. Even though I like Blacktop

Bully, I kept rooting for him—him or Rhodes—to fall off the truck and go splat on the pavement. It would've been cool to watch somebody fall off a moving truck on TV.

The other thing I liked about WCW Uncensored was when Sister Sherri was beating up on The Nasty Boys. That Sherri is one hot girl, even if she's a little fat, and I wouldn't mind bringing her home to my mom any day of the week. I don't know how Harlem Heat can get beat as long as Sherri's around, although I guess anything can happen.

Now everybody's talking about The Road Warriors coming back, so I guess that would be the end of Harlem Heat. No way they would beat The Legion of Doom. Them and The Nasty Boys. No way. It would be a complete romp. How come The Road Warriors call themselves The Legion of Doom sometimes?

Everybody's getting all hot about the Steiners coming back, but if you ask me, they're gonna killed by The Road Warriors.

You know, I wanted to fly to North Korea for that card where Hawk and Animal were wrestling and Flair was wrestling that old Japanese guy, Inoki or something, but Stu Saks said I couldn't go unless I paid for my own ticket, and I couldn't do that because I didn't have enough money. But if I did have enough money, I definitely would have gone. No doubt about it, and then I would've told you what happened, but I didn't go, so I can't.

I wonder where North Korea is.

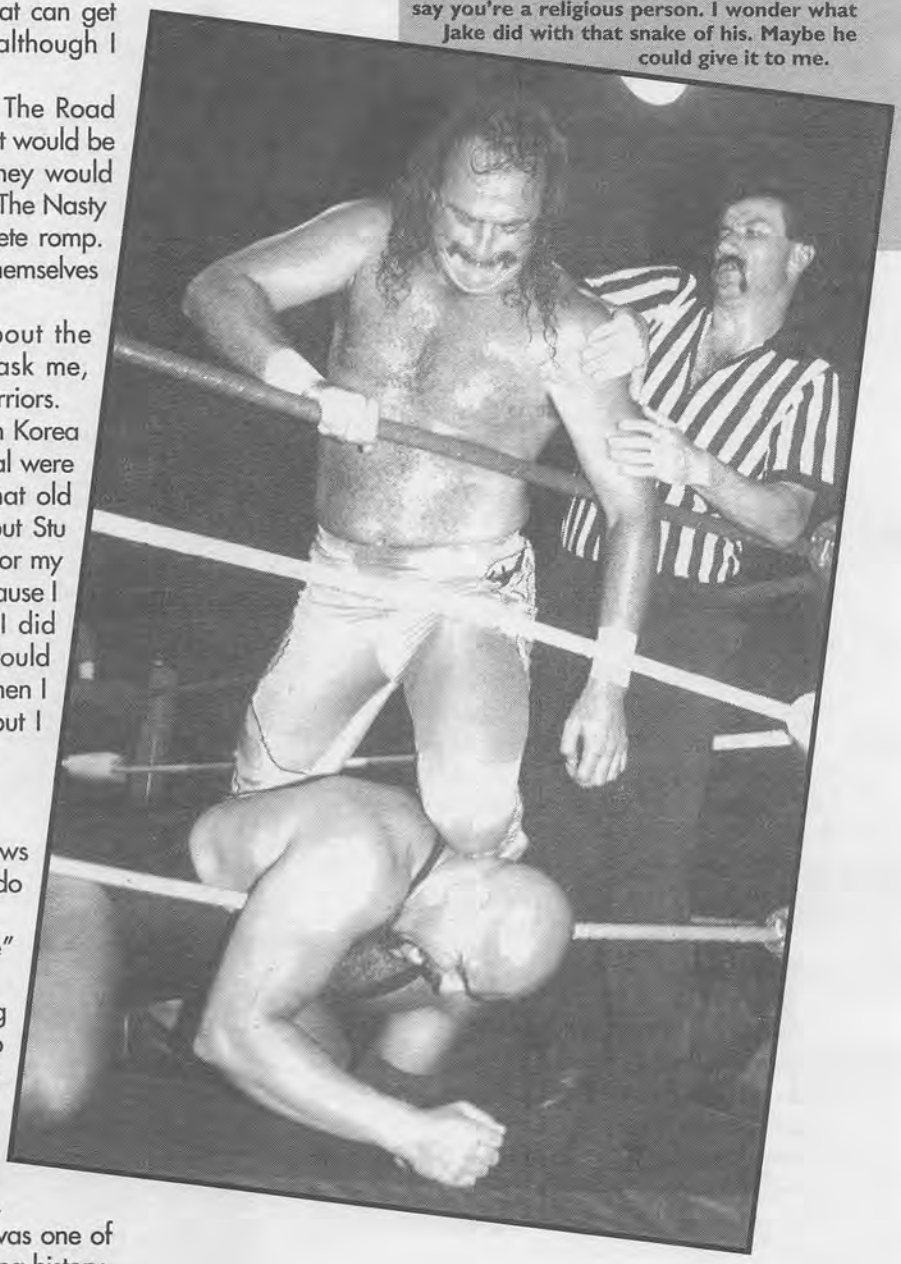
***

Eddie does this thing called "News Item" in his column, so I figured I'd do the same thing.

NEWS ITEM: Jake "The Snake" Roberts retires and finds God.

Yeah, I betcha he wasn't looking too hard for God when he trying to kick Rick Rude's butt for kissing his wife or that time when he pummeled some poor guy in that bar in Florida. I don't think his snake was trying to find God when he bit all those people.

All I can say is that "The Snake" was one of the toughest, meanest dudes in wrestling history, and I don't just see him getting down on one knee in a church and begging for forgiveness or whatever they do in there. He says he wants to help kids, but I don't think kids need help. I don't think Jake is going to find God where he's looking for him or her or whatever. I think he



I still don't understand how you can beat up people as bad as Jake Roberts did and still say you're a religious person. I wonder what Jake did with that snake of his. Maybe he could give it to me.

should've stayed a wrestler and left that God stuff to religious people.

NEWS ITEM: Bobby "The Brain" Heenan keeps Ric Flair and Big Van Vader from beating up Dave Sullivan too much.

Everybody says Heenan did this so that means he's no longer a rulebreaker anymore, but I don't think that's true. I just think he lost his sense of humor for a while and forgot what was going on, or maybe he forgot to take his old-age pills and he was afraid of blowing chunks if Ric and Vader destroyed Sullivan too bad. I don't know why anybody would keep anybody from beating up Dave Sullivan. If you ask me, that guy's a stupid dork. He really doesn't have any brains at all.

Here's my advice to Bobby: Next time, just sit back and enjoy it.

Bobby Heenan has to stop helping guys like Dave Sullivan. I wonder what "The Brain's" house looks like, anyway. I called to ask if I could come over and watch wrestling with him sometime, but he hung up on me.

NEWS ITEM: Jerry "The King" Lawler says Bret "The Hitman" Hart is a racist.

No, he's not. He's a professional wrestler.

NEWS ITEM: Some of my predictions already came true.

Remember that time in one of these magazines when I made my predictions for 1995? Well, I said that Ricki Lake is going to become a fat pig again and, sure enough, she's been stuffing the refrigerator down her throat and gaining jillions of pounds. You should see the flabby arms on her. They start around her neck and end up on the floor.

The other thing I said is that O.J. Simpson is not guilty, and so far he's not guilty. Ask anyone.

I also said Bret Hart is going to fade into oblivion, and that's already happening. But the thing that makes me look like the complete genius I am is when I said that Ric Flair would return and make a tag team with Big Van Vader. It only took until February, and already those guys are kicking butt all over the place. I guess brains run in this family.

I don't like Bret Hart. He's too nice. And everyone says he's a racist. I still don't know what that has to do with wrestling. I wish someone would explain it to me.

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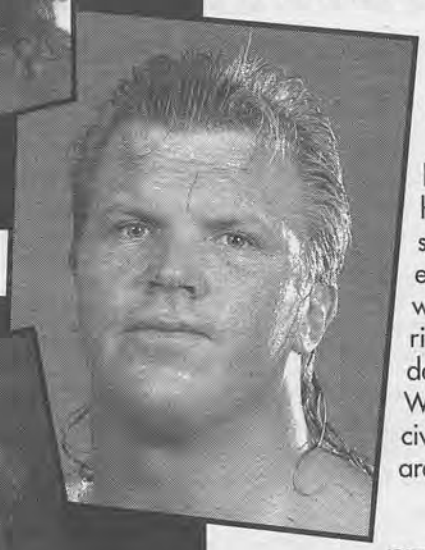
Tough

CHRIS BENOIT

"Everybody and their grandmother is talkin' about how extreme things are getting in ECW. Let me tell you somethin': Me, Dean Malenko, and Shane Douglas are the greatest wrestling coalition ever—The Triple Threat. Douglas is the ECW champion, and me and Malenko are the tag champs. I'll be damned if I'm going to lie down for a bunch of scums like Public Enemy or Sabu and Tasmaniac. Throw me and Dean in the ring with those teams and let's fight it out to see who's the best. I've crippled men before, and I'll cripple again!"



BOBBY EATON

"Take a look at my career, and you'll see that I have been part of some of the greatest tag teams in history. Some guys are flashy, some guys yell and scream behind the microphone, and some guys don't even belong in the ring. Me, I'm a wrestler—a great wrestler. Now, thanks to Lord Steven Regal, I have risen to new heights. His Lordship and myself will dominate WCW and destroy everyone in our path. We're mean, but we're also very, very good and very civilized. Just wait and see. The World tag team belts are our destiny."

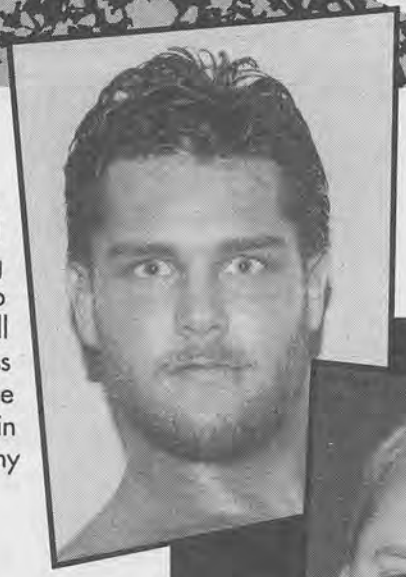
STEVE AUSTIN

"Damn, it's good to be back. Col. Parker said he missed me. Everyone did. It's because I'm the toughest and best wrestler in that entire federation. Everyone WCW has thrown in front of me, I have beaten. Now I want it all. Hogan, you've been ducking me for a long time now, and it's about time someone knocked you off that pedestal of yours. You may have the World title, but you're certainly not the best. I bestow that honor upon myself—the sexiest, the smartest, the best. 'Stunning' Steve Austin will rule the world!"

AL SNOW

"For years, people didn't know who I was, even though I'm one of the best pure wrestlers this sport has ever seen. But now, everybody in Smoky Mountain knows who I am. Me and Unibomb make a great team, and he's taught me how to bring out my killer instinct. The Rock 'n' Roll Express are two washed-up bums who don't even deserve to be in the same ring with such fine talent as me and Unibomb. It's great to be great, and it won't be long until I'm a tag team champion! Retire now, Morton and Gibson, before you both need wheelchairs!"

Talk



BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

"If Florida is the place where old people go to retire, then Memphis is the place where the old wrestlers come. I am sick and tired of the fat, out-of-shape cretins invading my space and trying to pass themselves off as wrestlers to these Memphis fans. Jerry Lawler, Bill Dundee, they all make me sick. I've beaten and bloodied Dundee countless times, but the fool refuses to give me a fair match for the heavyweight title. I'll retire Dundee, retire Lawler, and win the USWA title. Then no one will be able to dispute my greatness!"

THE SANDMAN

"Shane Douglas, who in the hell do you think you are? You refused Woman's advice and rescued that idiot Cactus Jack from the bloody beating he deserved. Now you have to pay. Me and Terry Funk are the two most insane wrestlers of all-time. We'll tear you and Cactus apart, and maybe I'll just take that ECW title of yours in the process! I've already destroyed that so-called legend Cactus Jack, but maybe we'll rip off his other ear for good measure. But for now, with Woman leading the way, Terry Funk and me are unstoppable!"

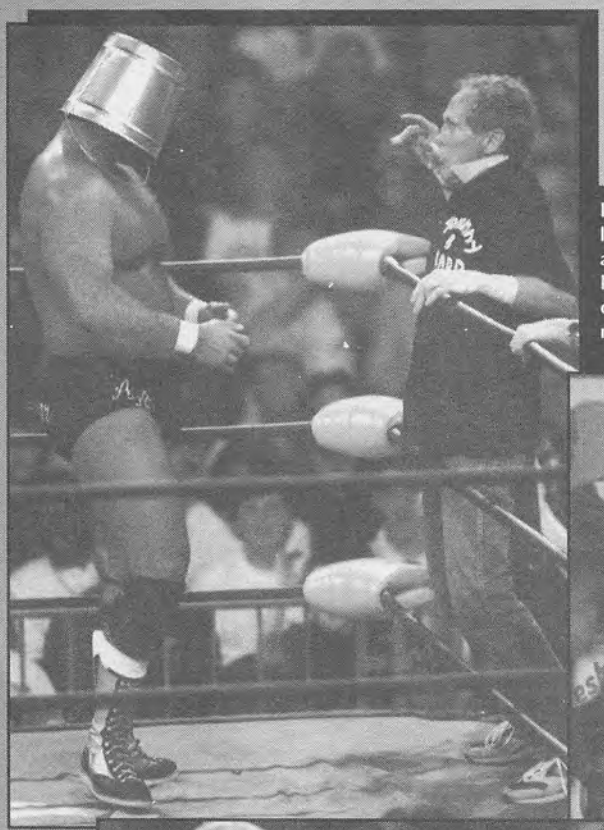
MENG

"Col. Parker told me it was time I did a little more talking. Hacksaw Duggan, why do you insist on more beatings? I humiliated you in our martial arts match at Uncensored, and there's more where that came from. You disgusted me and the fans with your pathetic attempts at kung fu and karate. *I* am the martial arts king of WCW, and Col. Parker is pointing me in the right direction. I am unbeatable, and it won't be long until everyone in WCW feels my wrath! Hulk Hogan, Nasty Boys, Sting, Randy Savage ... you all better watch your backs!"

KEVIN SULLIVAN

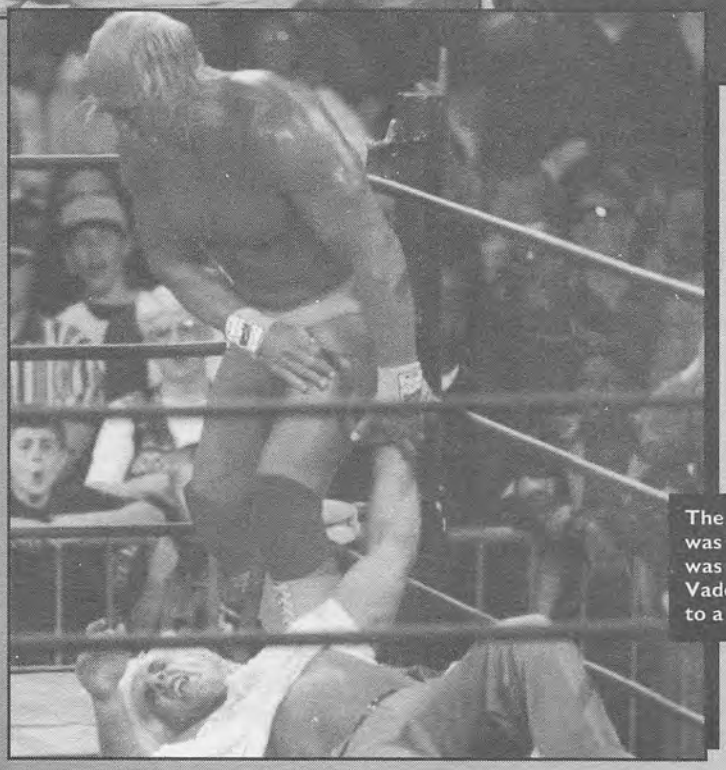
"What people don't know about Kevin Sullivan is that I don't give a damn about anyone but myself. I made Brutus 'The Butcher' Beefcake what he was in WCW. Out of the kindness of my heart, I allowed him to join the Faces of Fear. I made him tough. Then he let me down, so I had to beat him up a few times. That's what you get when you mess with Kevin Sullivan. It isn't my fault he can't handle himself. Now he has to deal with me. 'The Man With No Name,' you say? Well, he'll be 'The Man With No Life' after I get through with him!"

WCW Uncensored:



ECW fans would have just laughed when Arn Anderson lost to Johnny B. Badd after trainer Rock Finnegan put a bucket over Arn's head (left). Or after watching Harlem Heat and The Nasty Boys emerge from a concession stand "brawl" covered not in blood, but in mustard (below).

Photos by Bruce Numan



The Ric Flair-Hulk Hogan strap match was fairly exciting. The only problem was Hogan was supposedly wrestling Vader that night. It was a fitting end to a forgettable evening.

ECW WANNABE COULDN'T BE

WCW's lame attempt at imitating ECW was 150 minutes of non-stop, low-action boredom. There was no blood, no pain, no injuries, and not much to censor

By Dave Rosenbaum

SUPPORTERS OF rulebreakers and fan favorites don't agree on much, but here's one thing we do agree upon: At its best, and sometimes at its not-so-best, professional wrestling is the greatest sport in the world.

In our opinion, Extreme Championship Wrestling has made a great sport even better. This is a no-nonsense federation where just about everybody breaks the rules in manic, violent fashion. Matches conducted under traditional rules are considered offbeat, and there are often as many chairs inside the ring as there are surrounding it.

ECW has set the standard for high-impact wrestling.

WCW obviously noticed ECW's success, because on March 19, 1995, in Tupelo, Mississippi, WCW Uncensored became the latest addition to wrestling's long pay-per-view roster. This card, full of odd specialty matches supposedly not sanctioned by WCW officials, was WCW's answer to ECW. It promised to be violent and exciting, non-stop action where only the tough would survive.

Unfortunately, we weren't surprised when it didn't turn out that way.

In one of the most disappointing pay-per-view events ever held—and that's saying something—WCW set new standards for ripping off fans, misleading advertising, and falling short of hype.

The biggest laugh of the evening came when ring announcer Michael Buffer, that oily bundle of public relations slickness, yelped that the Hulk Hogan vs. Big Van Vader strap match—presumably part of this *unsanctioned* card—was "sanctioned by WCW and the Mississippi State Athletic Commission."

When the match began, pay-per-viewers were undoubtedly dismayed when the camera pulled back to a wide-angle shot every time Vader or Hogan got ready to do something violent, then zoomed in whenever things got boring again.

WCW Uncensored, unsanctioned, was both censored and sanctioned.

ECW, your claim to fame as the toughest, roughest, rowdiest federation in North America hasn't even been challenged. WCW Uncensored didn't come close.

And there's a simple reason for that.

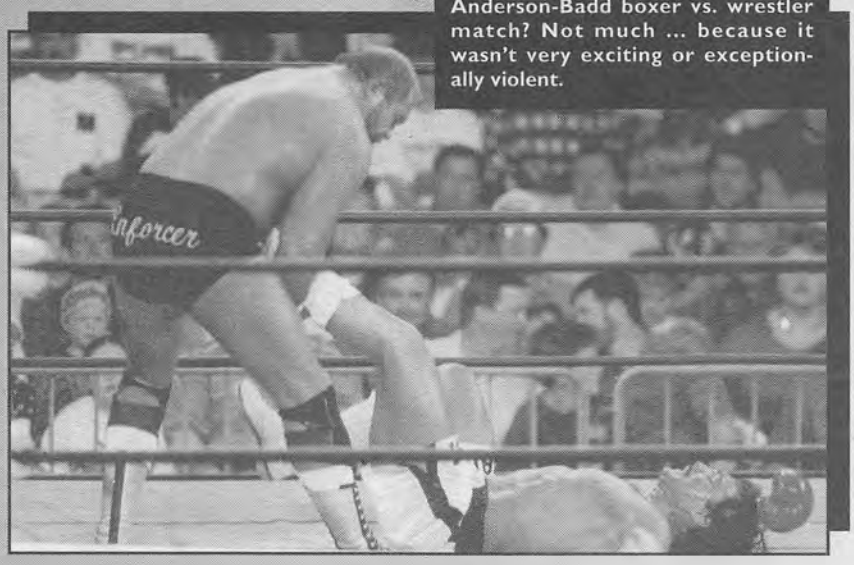
WCW can't be like ECW because WCW is everything that ECW isn't: owned by a billionaire who's afraid of taking chances, run by a group of officials who can't agree on anything, and promoted by a slick staff that does everything by the book. Don't blame this one on the wrestlers: With Big Van Vader, Blacktop Bully, Arn Anderson, and Harlem Heat on its talent roster, WCW is fully capable of putting together a wild and brutal card.

Instead, Blacktop Bully and Dustin Rhodes spent most of their match (conducted on the flatbed of an 18-wheeler going 55 miles per hour through the back roads of rural Tupelo) trying to keep from falling out of the trailer. And by the way, that match was taped and edited for broadcast on pay-per-view. There was actually a lot of blood spilled in that match—but it was all edited out!

And what was with the hay? ECW would have kept the flatbed bare, enabling Bully to piledrive Rhodes onto the hard metal floor. Bully and Dustin romping around in the hay was about as brutal as a bunch of kids playing in the ball pit at McDonald's.

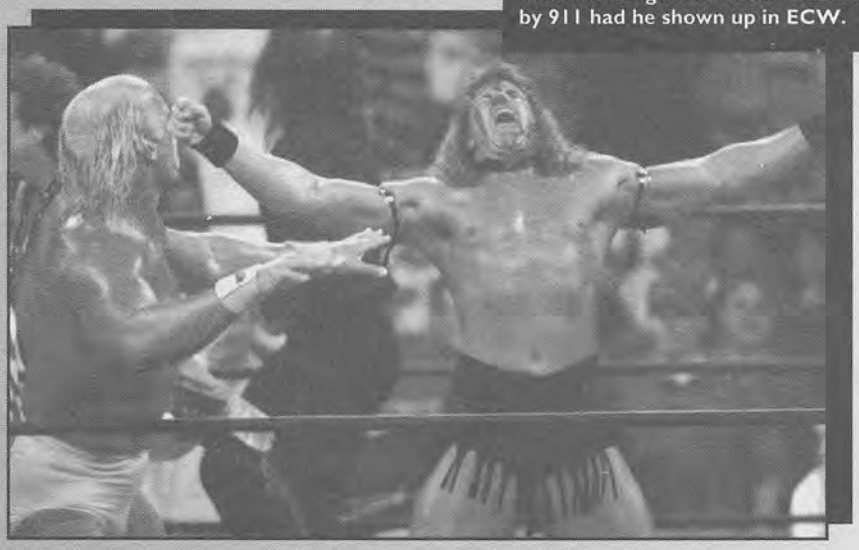
WCW treated us to boredom at 55 miles per hour.

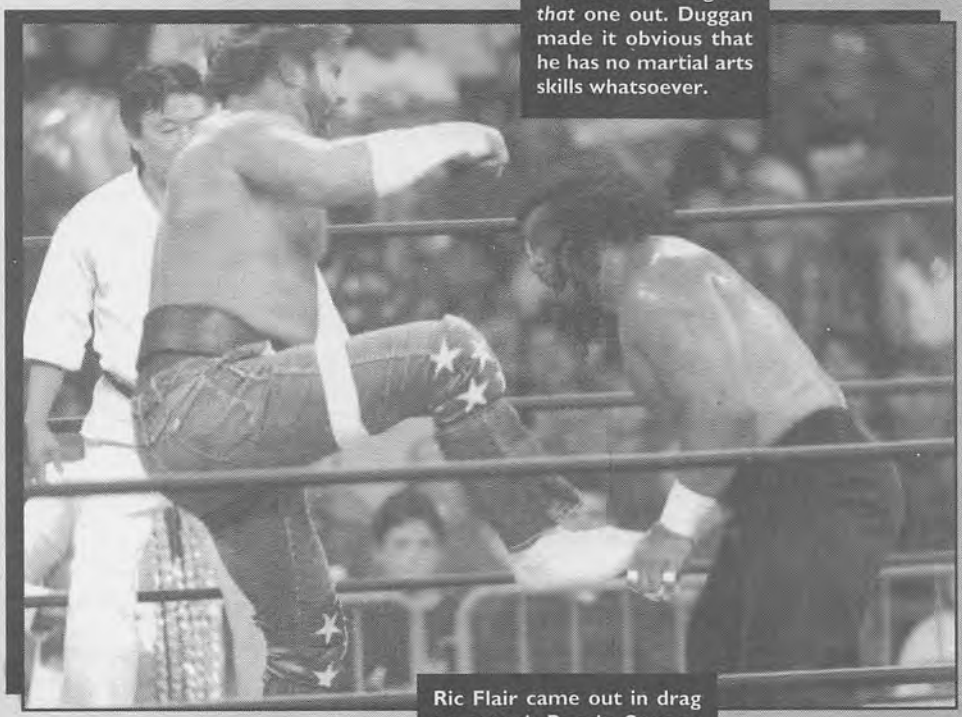
The Nasty Boys vs. Harlem Heat falls-count-anywhere match was a dud on TV because the cameramen kept missing all of the good shots; they even missed the pinfall! It wasn't much better live, because only a few thousand fans had a good view of the action. A falls-count-anywhere match, when properly



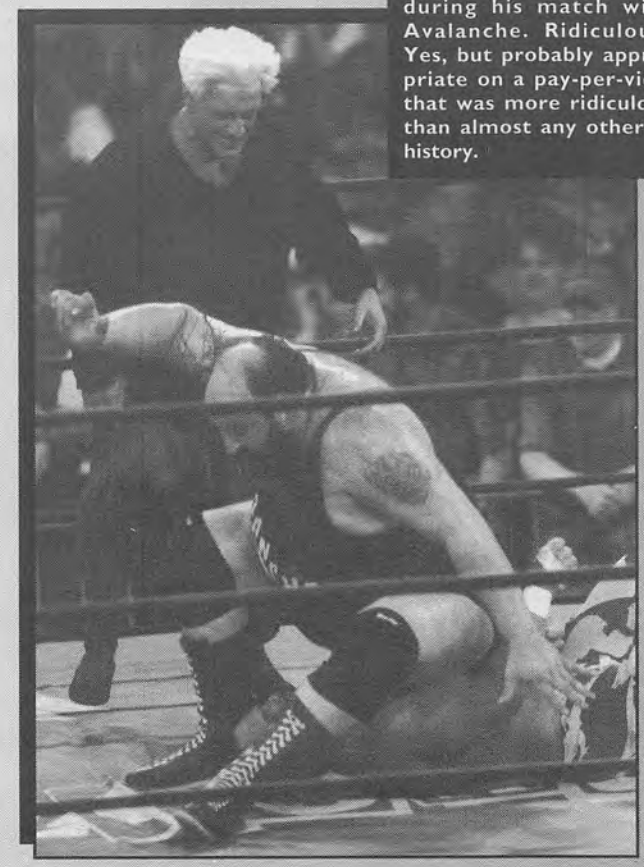
What was there to censor in the Anderson-Badd boxer vs. wrestler match? Not much ... because it wasn't very exciting or exceptionally violent.

Fans looking for violent out-of-the-ring action didn't get much in the Hogan-Vader match (above). They did get an appearance by The Renegade, an Ultimate Warrior wannabe (below) who probably would have gotten choke-slammed by 911 had he shown up in ECW.





Why was Hacksaw Duggan in a martial arts match against Meng at Uncensored? We'll never figure *that* one out. Duggan made it obvious that he has no martial arts skills whatsoever.



Ric Flair came out in drag to attack Randy Savage during his match with Avalanche. Ridiculous? Yes, but probably appropriate on a pay-per-view that was more ridiculous than almost any other in history.

policed, forces the wrestlers to rumble through the crowd and in heavily trafficked areas of the arena. This was a falls-count-anywhere-especially-where-you-can't-see-them match.

And nobody bled in that match. Nor were there any serious injuries—in that match or any of the other bouts. Why? Because WCW officials, who supposedly didn't sanction the card, banned wrestlers from bringing foreign objects into the ring.

Fans who shelled out $27.95 for the pay-per-view telecast had to be outraged. They were promised tight camera angles that would bring them close to the bone-crunching action. They got nothing of the sort.

When it was all over, Hulk Hogan defeated Ric Flair in a strap match, even though he was actually wrestling Vader. Confused WCW officials counted the win for Hogan as he dragged Flair to all four corners of the ring.

Come to think of it, maybe they weren't confused. Maybe they had fallen asleep, just like the rest of us.

To paraphrase the original MTV marketing slogan: We want our ECW! The federation isn't afraid of showing fans wrestling the way it really is: violent, bloody, and ruled by men who often wouldn't be welcomed in civilized parts of society. ECW would never dream of telling fans that a particular show is uncensored and unsanctioned.

ECW sanctions that which WCW censored ... even at a premium price.

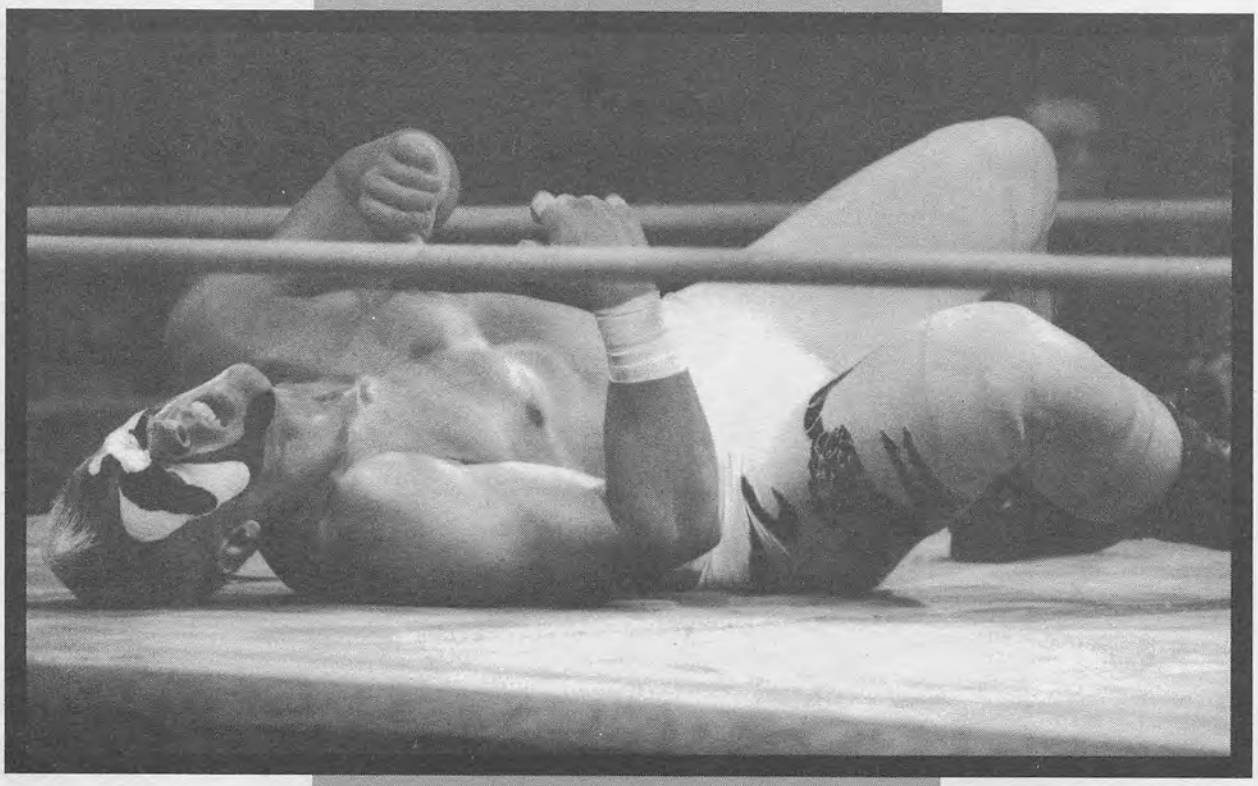
Survive

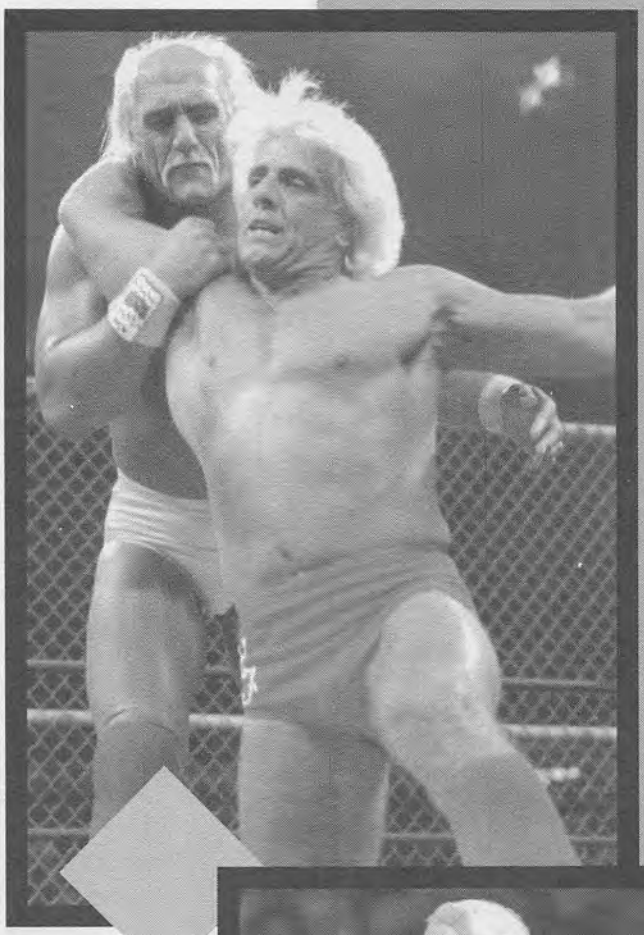
Why Wrestling's Good Guys

Or

Face A Summer of Hell

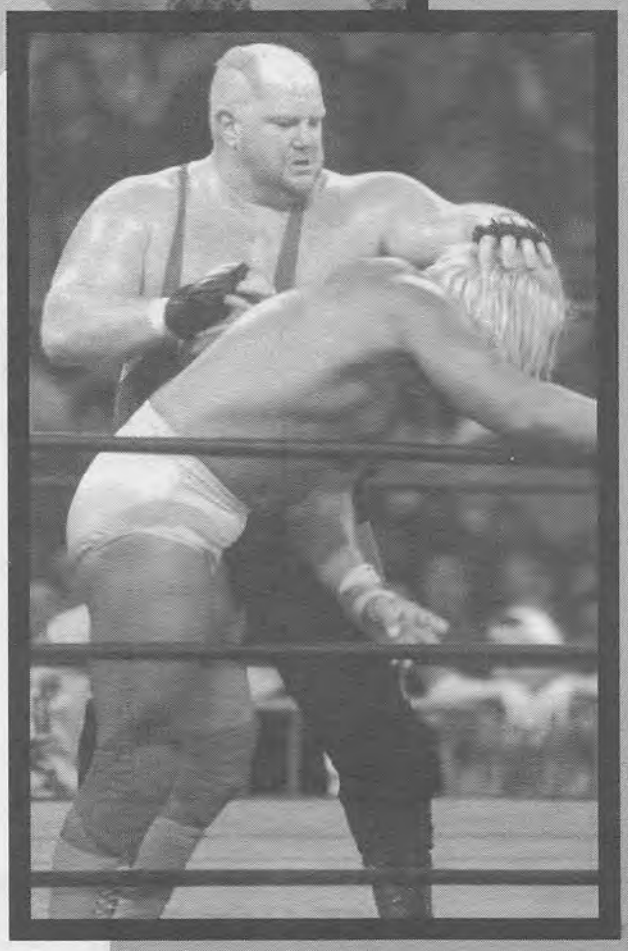
Die!





When June turns into July, wrestling's fan favorites will be fighting for their lives. By the time July turns into August, all will be lost

By Eddie Ellner



If it isn't Ric Flair (above) who beats you, Hulk Hogan, it'll be Big Van Vader (right). Or both. Their assault will never stop. Retire now, you 275-pound hunk of garbage ... while you can still walk!

IN THE SUMMERTIME, when the weather gets hot and humid, moods turn surly and bad men get better. It's an established fact that crime rates rise when the weather warms. Tempers shorten and the weapons come out. Beach Blast '95 and SummerSlam '95 figure to be the scene of many serious crimes.

And that's bad news for wrestling's good guys.

The bad guys are ready to run them down.

Feuds are escalating. Big Van Vader's in an awful mood. By mid-summer, even The Road Warriors should be back on North American soil.

Smart men would run for cover and batten down the hatches. But nobody said fan favorites were geniuses.

Pity. Now they're about to get their brains scrambled.

***

HULK HOGAN: THIS WAS YOUR LIFE

The superhero status of the "Hulkster" has never been more sickeningly apparent than it has been since he arrived in WCW, the federation that shunned him for more than a decade. One of the most

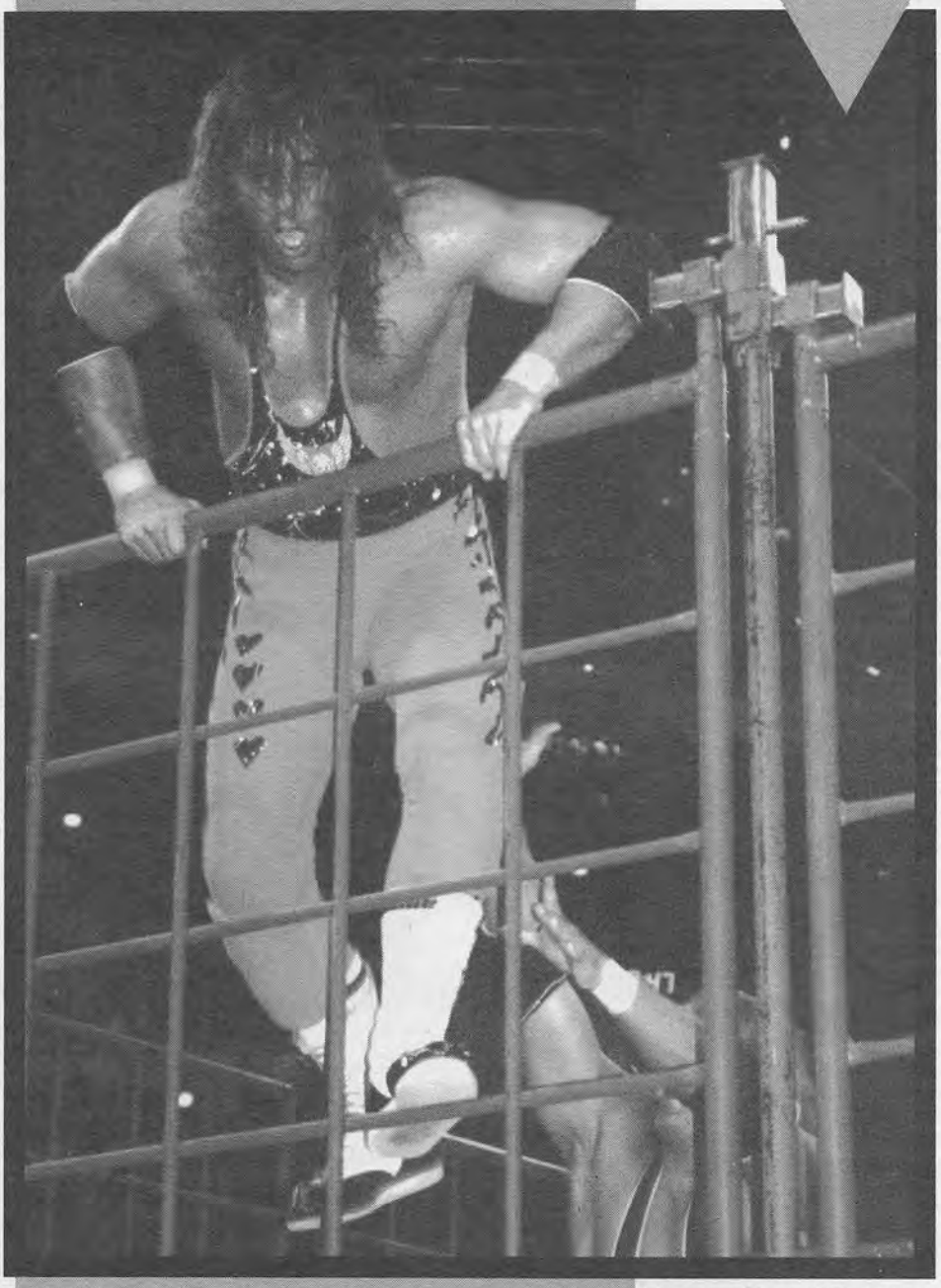
despicable developments in recent memory was the invasion of WCW by brainwashed Hogan fans, who storm ticket offices everywhere and regularly jam up pay-per-view order lines. They are a carnival barker's dream come true.

Over the past year, Ric Flair, Brutus Beefcake, and Big Van Vader have combined to fight wrong in WCW, but Hogan has so many brainless lackeys that beating him with one or two men is liking trying to take on an army with a steak knife.

But things will change this summer, and the reason is simple: Vader and Flair have built an impenetrable wall Hogan will never scale. And with Arn Anderson also on Hogan's bad side, this summer figures to be the last for the "Hulkster" as a professional wrestler.

Unless, of course, they add professional wrestling to the Games For The Disabled.

Hogan—old, tattered, torn, and worn down—has little chance of fighting off this dreaded threat, even with the assistance of Randy Savage. It is of no comfort to Hogan that Savage could turn against him at any time, and most likely will when he gets tired of being Hogan's servant. By late-July, Dave Sullivan will be Hogan's only friend, which again will be of small comfort to him. Simply stated, the man is an idiot who belongs in an institution.



That's right, Bret Hart, try to escape from your brother Owen while you still can. In fact, leave the WWF! Leave wrestling! For good! Do it now! Owen, Lawler, Hakushi, Backlund ... at least one of them will get you this summer!

In the WWF, Hogan faced a small army of competitors with selfish aims: One, they wanted to win the World title, and two, they wanted to be known as the men who destroyed "Hulkamania."

In WCW, Hogan is facing a better-built army of competitors who view him as anathema to everything for which the federation stands. Hogan wants to turn it into his private circus. Flair and Vader are fighting for history.

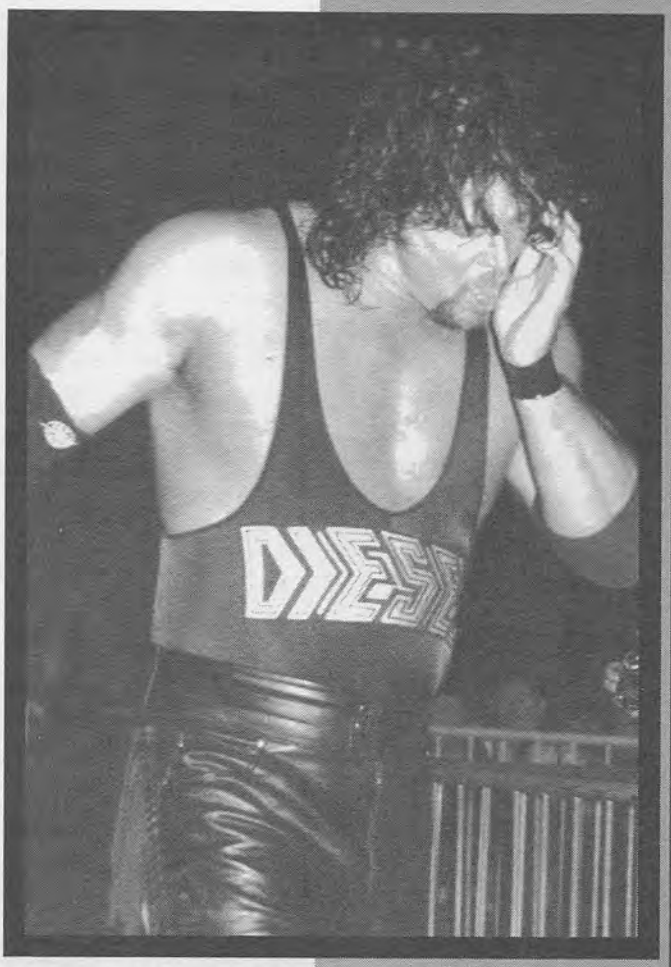
History wins as Hogan fails to repeat.

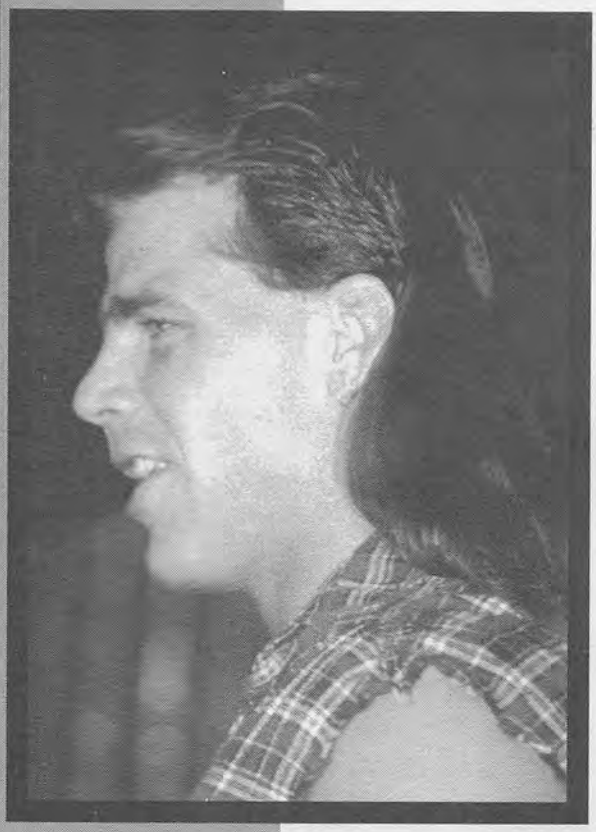
"Hogan is dead," Vader roared.

The lion has spoken.

BRET HART: TRAITOR, LIAR, RACIST

Whether or not you buy Jerry Lawler's assertion that Bret Hart is a racist (and we wholeheartedly support the





Get used to that feeling, Diesel (above). You'll be feeling a lot of pain this summer, courtesy of Shawn Michaels (right). That is, unless you get down on your knees, kiss Shawn's feet, and thank him for giving you a career.

theory), you can't deny the fact that Hart, according to sources, refused to wrestle Yokozuna without the condition that Yoko, if he won, couldn't defend the belt in any Asian country.

Hart's downfall could come at the hands of Hakushi, Yokozuna, or even his brother, Owen, who has fought so hard and gallantly for Bret's destruction. Don't count out Mr. Bob Backlund yet, either. Or Bret's downfall could come at the hands of his blinded-by-love parents, Stu and Helen Hart, who might finally realize that Bret is totally responsible for the "War Between The Harts" and that it only continues raging because Bret refuses to extend the hand of brotherhood to Owen.

The psychological assault on Bret's mind is well underway, and the physical assault, a methodical blow-by-blow process, has been going on for some time. Bret has completely lost his sense of direction and no longer seems to care about the WWF World or Intercontinental titles. Lawler and Owen, in rather ingenious fashion, have taken him well off the beaten path, thus luring him onto their turf. They are now tag team partners.

By summer's end, even the fans won't be on Bret's side. His parents will have turned their backs. Bret Hart, neither rulebreaker nor fan favorite, will have nowhere to turn.

DIESEL: GOODBYE, EX-CHAMP

Having enjoyed his one and only WWF World title reign, Diesel—by far the least talented champion in federation history—will slither off into obscurity, but not before Shawn Michaels and several other WWF bad guys expose him for the non-talent that he is. Diesel never would have won the title if he wasn't allowed to ambush Bob Backlund in November. Even worse, after

winning the belt, Diesel failed to show the proper gratitude to Michaels, the man who made him a man.

Michaels can undo him, too, and winning the belt from "Big Daddy Cool" will be the final strike in the plan. What goes around comes around. Diesel went from laughable mid-card wrestler to bodyguard to Intercontinental champion to World tag team champion to World champion. Unfortunately for Diesel, it's only a matter of time before he is back to laughable mid-card status.

If he's lucky.

How could a man with so little talent have survived for so long?

STING: HOW MUCH CAN ONE MAN TAKE?

Having set himself up as the target of every bad guy in WCW, Sting can look forward to another long, hot summer of brutal pain and torturous anguish.

"After I'm through with Hogan, I wouldn't mind finishing the job I started on Sting," Vader said.

Said Big Bubba Rogers: "I'm sick and tired of that pretty boy getting every break and every decision. It's like he can do nothing wrong.

Well, there are two ways to deal with this: by the rules, or the more direct way. I'm taking the more direct route, and if that means finishing off his back or taking out his knee, so be it. The way I see it, a WCW without Sting is a better WCW."

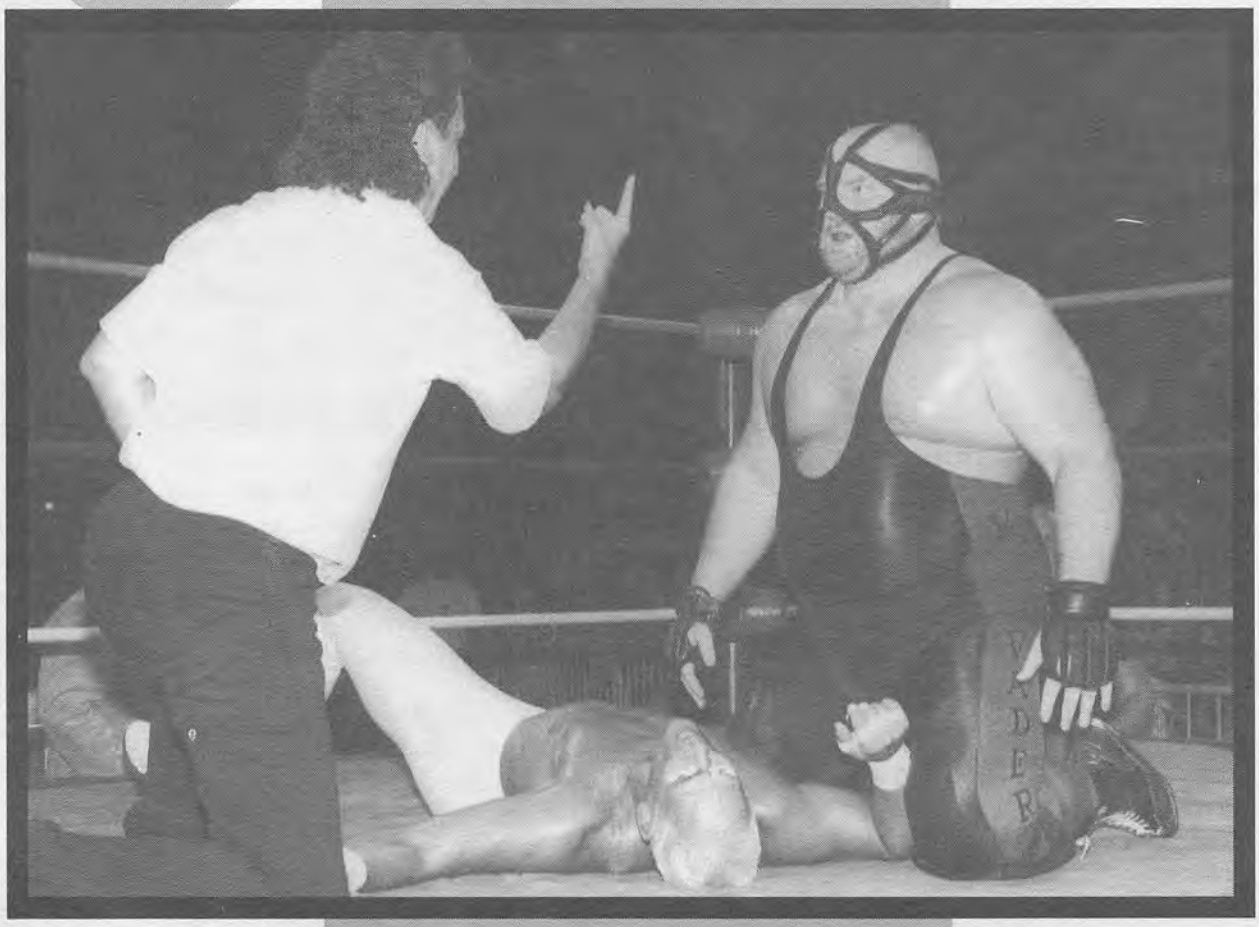
For Sting, being targeted is one thing.

Going without a title is yet another.

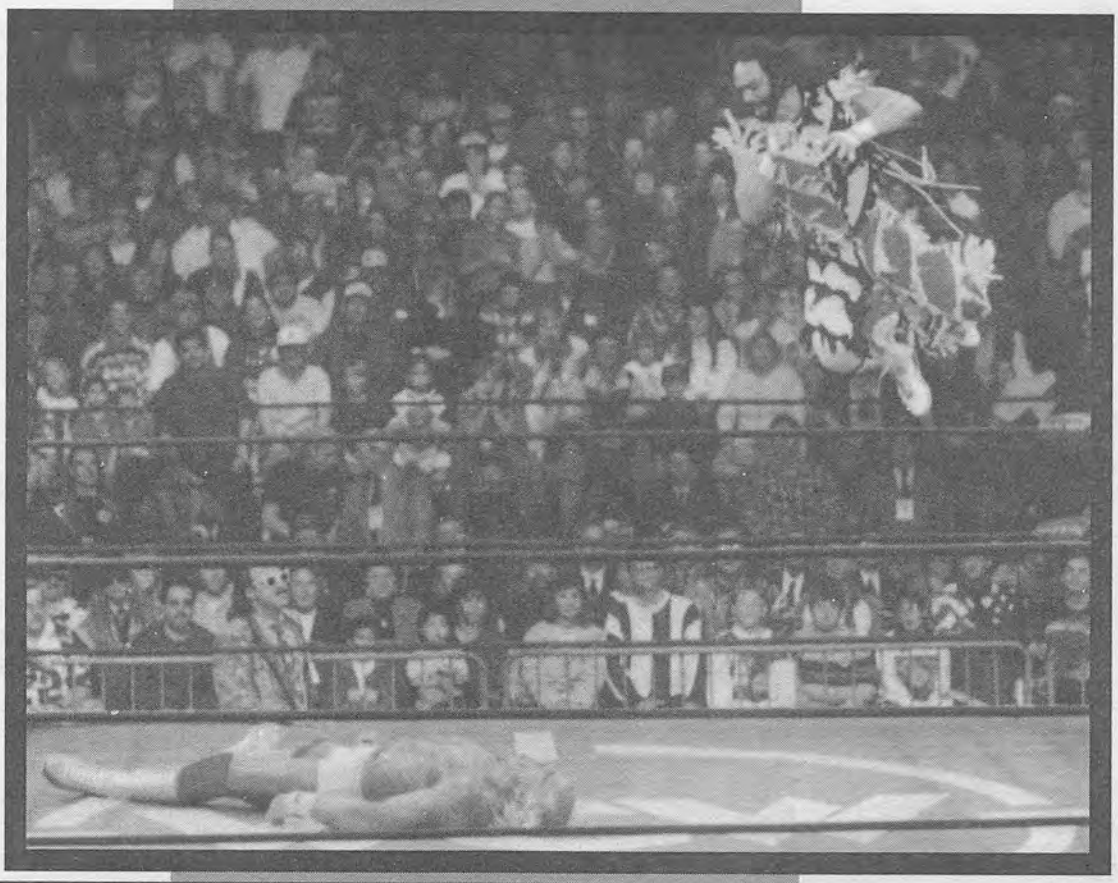
Sting will go yet another summer without the World title. Why? Because Hogan, his supposed friend, will dictate his opponents in title defenses and Sting won't be on the list. And when Hogan loses the belt, he'll get all the title shots again. The lords of WCW bow down to Hogan, and they have all but forgotten Sting.

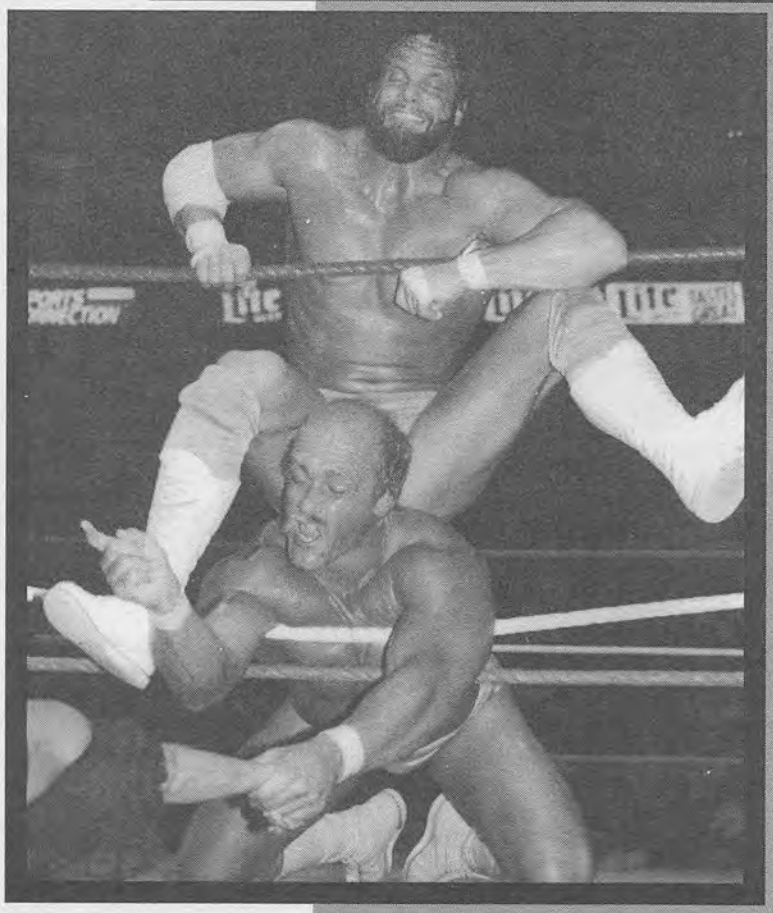
By the end of the summer, Sting will once again have to decide whether he should continue destroying his career by playing the part of fan favorite, or go for the gusto by turning against the friends who have betrayed him for so long.

Sting is a much smarter man than Andre the Giant, the big oafish idiot who finally figured out that Hogan was using him. Sting's summer of hell will mean making some hellish decisions.



When will you learn, Sting? You keep taking matches against Vader, and you keep getting the crap kicked out of you. Until you wise up and turn against Hogan, you'll never be near another World title.





This is what we want to see more of from Randy Savage: launching flying elbowsmashes against Hogan (above) and following them up with nasty attacks (left).

RANDY SAVAGE: HOGAN IS THE ENEMY

By now, Randy "Macho Man" Savage is the only person on the planet who hasn't realized that Hulk Hogan is the worst thing that ever happened to him. Hogan cost Savage his marriage, his WWF World titles, and his stardom. Only in the WWF could a talent like Savage be overshadowed by a no-talent like Hogan, and only in Savage's confused brain could the decision that a re-alliance with the "Hulkster" is a good thing be made.

This battle of demons will take place within Savage's head for the next several months. As he endures constant batterings for the entirely unreasonable purpose of saving Hogan's hide, Savage will undoubtedly realize what a fool he has become.

"Somebody has to explain to me what Savage is thinking about," said Arn Anderson. "Here's a wrestler with all the

talent in the world, but he keeps letting it go to waste because Hogan gets in his way. Then he actually goes out there and helps the guy. Believe me, when I'm kicking the daylights out of Savage, I'm really trying to help him. But I think he's beyond help at this point."

Until the summer gets hot, sticky, and hellish. Until even the most reasonable people start getting annoyed. It will be on one of those days—as the sweat drips down his face and the sun wears him down—that Savage will realize he's wasting his time.

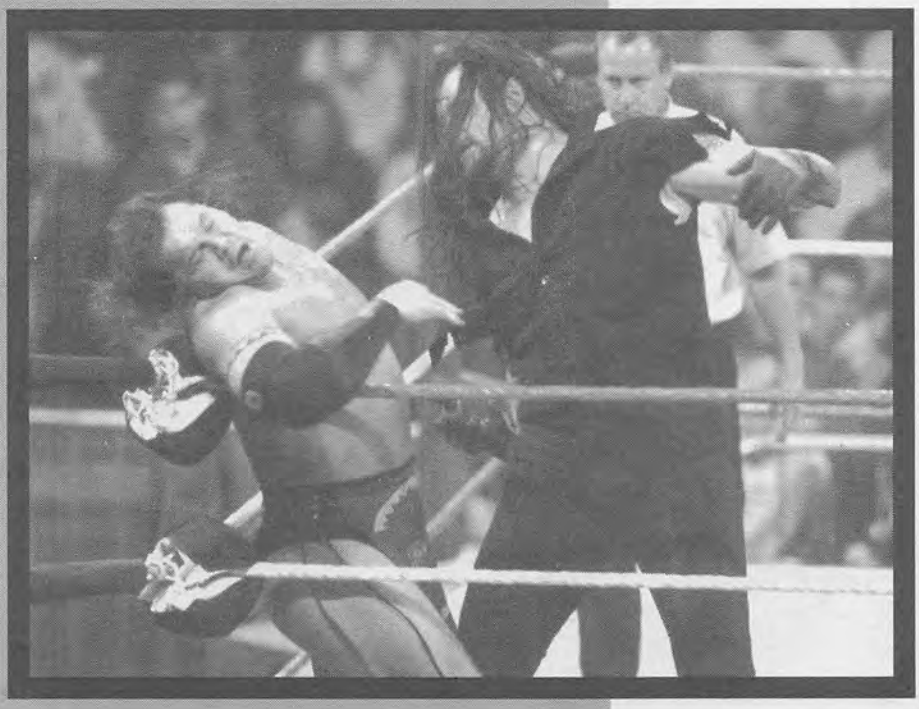
Only then can his private torment end.

THE UNDERTAKER: FUNERAL FOR A DEAD MAN

Taking on an entire stable is dangerous business when you're a one-man show and the only person on your side is a shivering, shimmering funeral parlor employee who sounds like he has watched one too many Bela Lugosi movies. The Undertaker's biggest problem isn't Bam Bam Bigelow or King Kong Bundy. It's Ted DiBiase's entire Corporation.

Even if Undertaker overtakes Bigelow or

Enjoy the good times against Bam Bam Bigelow (left) and Tatanka (below) while they last, Undertaker. Ted DiBiase's Corporation won't rest until your career is dead and buried.



The Nasty Boys won't get many more chances to regain the WCW World tag team title from Harlem Heat. They could actually be nothing more than prelim bums by the end of this summer.

Bundy, DiBiase will have another stablemate ready to destroy him. There is no end to Undertaker's battle with The Million-Dollar Corporation, unless DiBiase's men put an end to The Undertaker. If one man can't do the job, the combination of Bigelow, Bundy, Tatanka, Nikolai Volkoff, and Kama can ... and will.

FAN FAVORITES? FORGET THE REST

Johnny B. Badd will pay for making wrestling look bad in that boxing vs. wrestling match at WCW Uncensored. Promoters will turn their backs on this made-for-TV shill.

The Nasty Boys, too stupid to realize what got them to the top in the first place, won't handle the heat of Harlem, nor will they be able to deal with "Sister" Sherri Martel. They can't even recapture the WCW World tag team title in their wildest dreams.

It's back to Germany for Alex Wright, who will be turned away at the gate as customs officials mumble something about "unpurifying the German race."

The Patriot and Marcus Alexander Bagwell will keep themselves within inches of the WCW World tag team title. The torture is that they'll never win it.

Tamara Murphy Fytch will terrorize WWF fan favorites.

Jerry Lawler will win more titles in the USWA and SMW. "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony will discover that even "Dirty White Girl" Kimberly doesn't want him or need him anymore.

The Rock 'n' Roll Express will spend their summer praying The Road Warriors don't return. When they do, Hawk and Animal's first stop will be in SMW, where it will take them about 30 seconds to finish off Morton and Gibson forever.

Get out the lawn chairs. Fire up those barbecues. It's gonna be a long, hot, hellish summer, boys: Get ready to enjoy it!

If any of the WWF's fan favorites want to know just how tough Tamara Murphy Fytch is, they need only to ask Tony Anthony. She could beat him up with one hand tied behind her back.

Our Investigation Proves:

Jerry Lawler Is Right!

BRET HART IS A RAC

Jerry Lawler charges that Bret Hart hates Japanese people. Hart, not surprisingly, says that's not true … but what else *would* he say? We'll rely on the evidence—and you should, too

By Dave Rosenbaum

(Editor's note: The following story is based on information gathered through interviews with sources who chose to not have themselves identified for publication. The editors of WRESTLING BAD GUYS, *however, verified the reliability of each person interviewed and double-checked the information provided. While it is not the practice of this publication to publish stories based on second-hand information, we felt it was necessary considering the subject involved.)*

DURING THE FIRST few weeks of April 1994, Bret "The Hitman" Hart was riding high on a wave of publicity and adrenaline. Hart had just won his second WWF World title by defeating Yokozuna at Wrestle Mania X, and he was besieged by contract offers, marketing opportunities, and contenders who wanted to take their best shot at him.

It was during a meeting with WWF officials that Hart, who has a

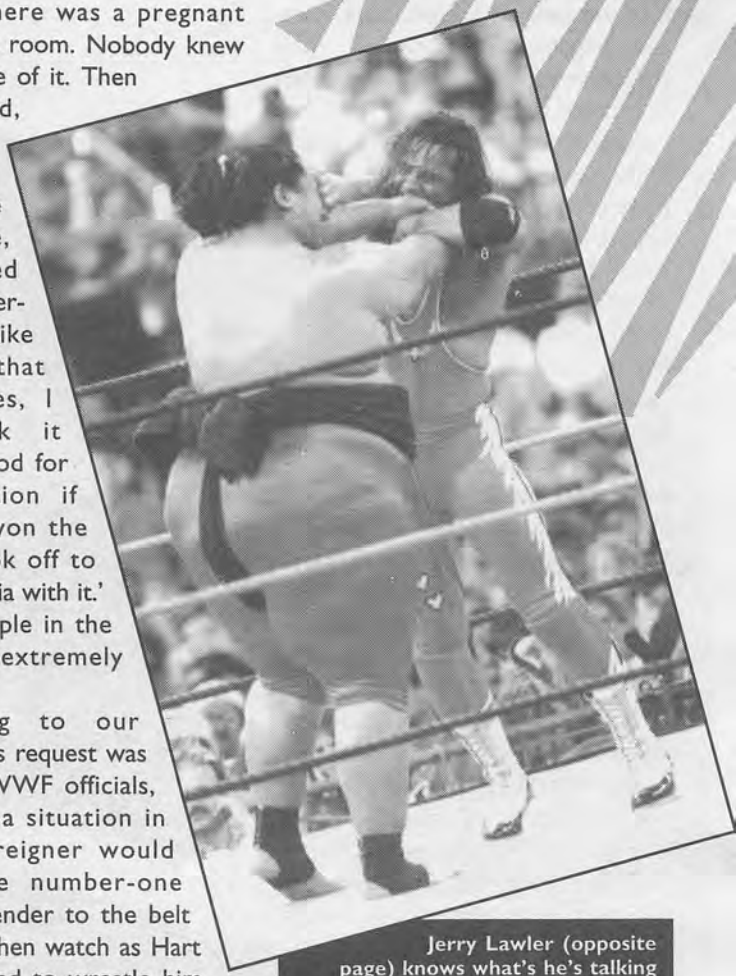
IST!

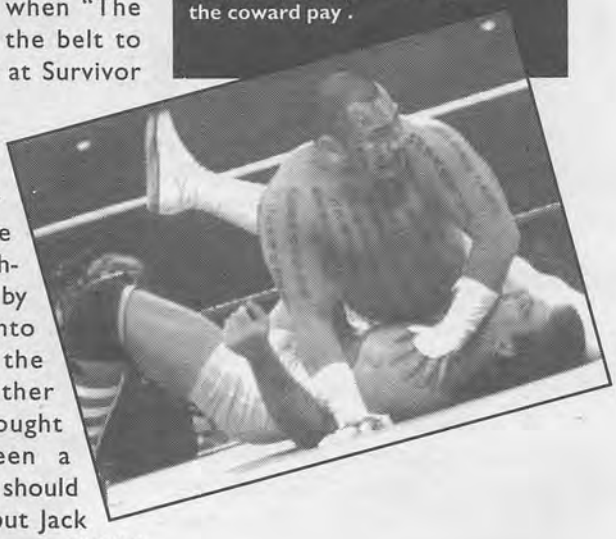
reputation as a fair-minded man, made an unusual request.

"It was regarding his contract for title defenses," said a source who attended the meeting. "Hart wanted a clause added that gave him final right of refusal on any opponent and, I quote, 'from any foreign country.' There was a pregnant silence in the room. Nobody knew what to make of it. Then Bret added, without anyone asking, 'I know it's the World title, but it's based in North America, and I'd like to keep it that way. Besides, I don't think it would be good for the federation if somebody won the belt and took off to Japan or Russia with it.' A lot of people in the room were extremely shocked."

According to our source, Hart's request was refused by WWF officials, who feared a situation in which a foreigner would become the number-one contender to the belt and then watch as Hart refused to wrestle him. But the request had a lasting effect on those same officials, who were reportedly relieved when "The Hitman" lost the belt to Bob Backlund at Survivor Series 1994.

"Hart was incensed after the Survivor Series because he felt his mother was tricked by his brother into throwing in the towel," another source said. "He thought there should've been a rematch, or the title should have been held up, but Jack Tunney refused, and WWF executives backed his decision. They really didn't want Hart to have the belt anymore. When Backlund





Jerry Lawler (opposite page) knows what's he's talking about when he says Bret Hart, who has only wrestled Samoan sensation Yokozuna on his own terms (above), is a racist. Now Lawler and Hakushi (below) will make the coward pay .

lost the belt to Diesel, they were even happier because now the belt was twice removed and in the hands of another fan favorite."

These revelations are especially enlightening when taken in the context of charges made against Hart by Jerry "The King" Lawler, one of the WWF's more honest and honorable athletes. In March, Lawler called Hart a racist who hated Japanese; he lashed out against the Japanese writers who honored Hart with an award. In an attempt to prove he wasn't a racist, Hart asked WWF promoters for matches against Japanese star Hakushi, who attacked Bret immediately after he received his plaque from members of the Japanese press.

But would Hart have wanted to wrestle Hakushi if he was still WWF World champion? Probably not, according to several people familiar with "The Hitman."

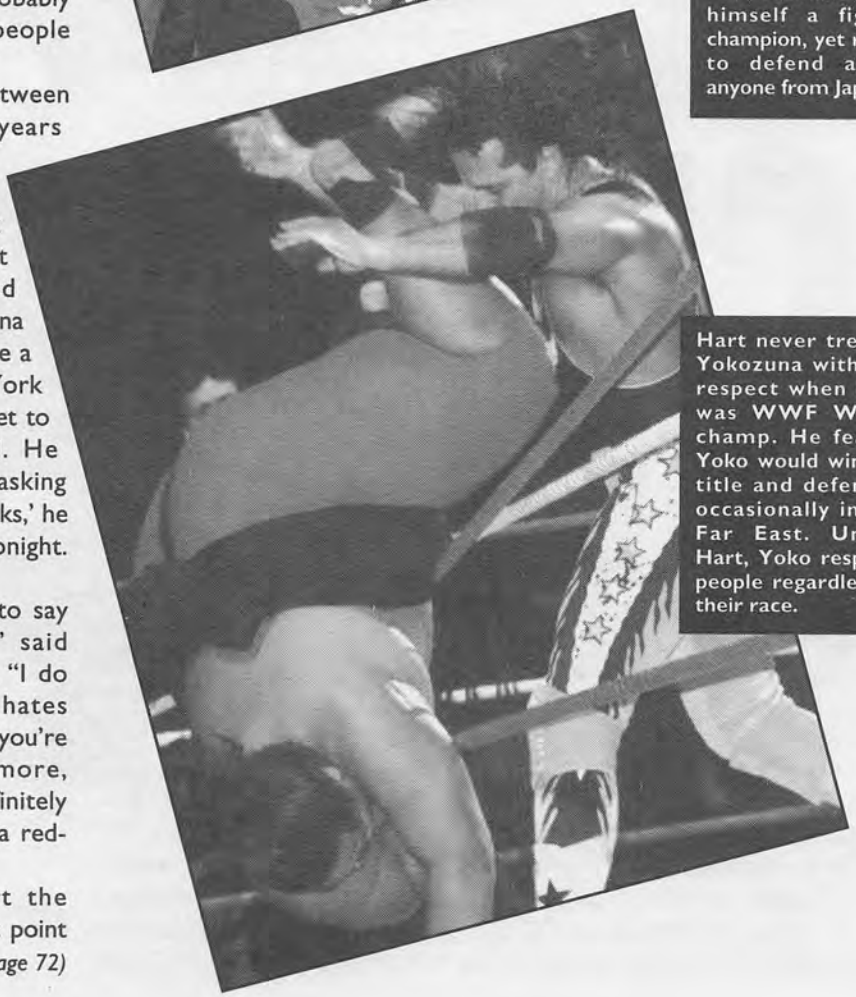
"Something happened between him and Yokozuna a few years ago," said a WWF fan favorite. "It was something outside the ring. I don't think anybody knows quite what it was, but Hart harbored incredible hatred for Yokozuna and Mr. Fuji. I remember once a bunch of us were in New York for a card, and we invited Bret to go out for Japanese food. He looked at us like we were asking him to eat dog food. 'No thanks,' he said. 'I'm eating American tonight. I'm going out for a steak.'"

"I don't know if it's fair to say Bret hates the Japanese," said another WWF fan favorite. "I do think it's fair to say he hates Yokozuna and Mr. Fuji, but if you're asking me who he hates more, Lawler or Yokozuna, I'd definitely say it's Lawler, and Lawler's a red-blooded American."

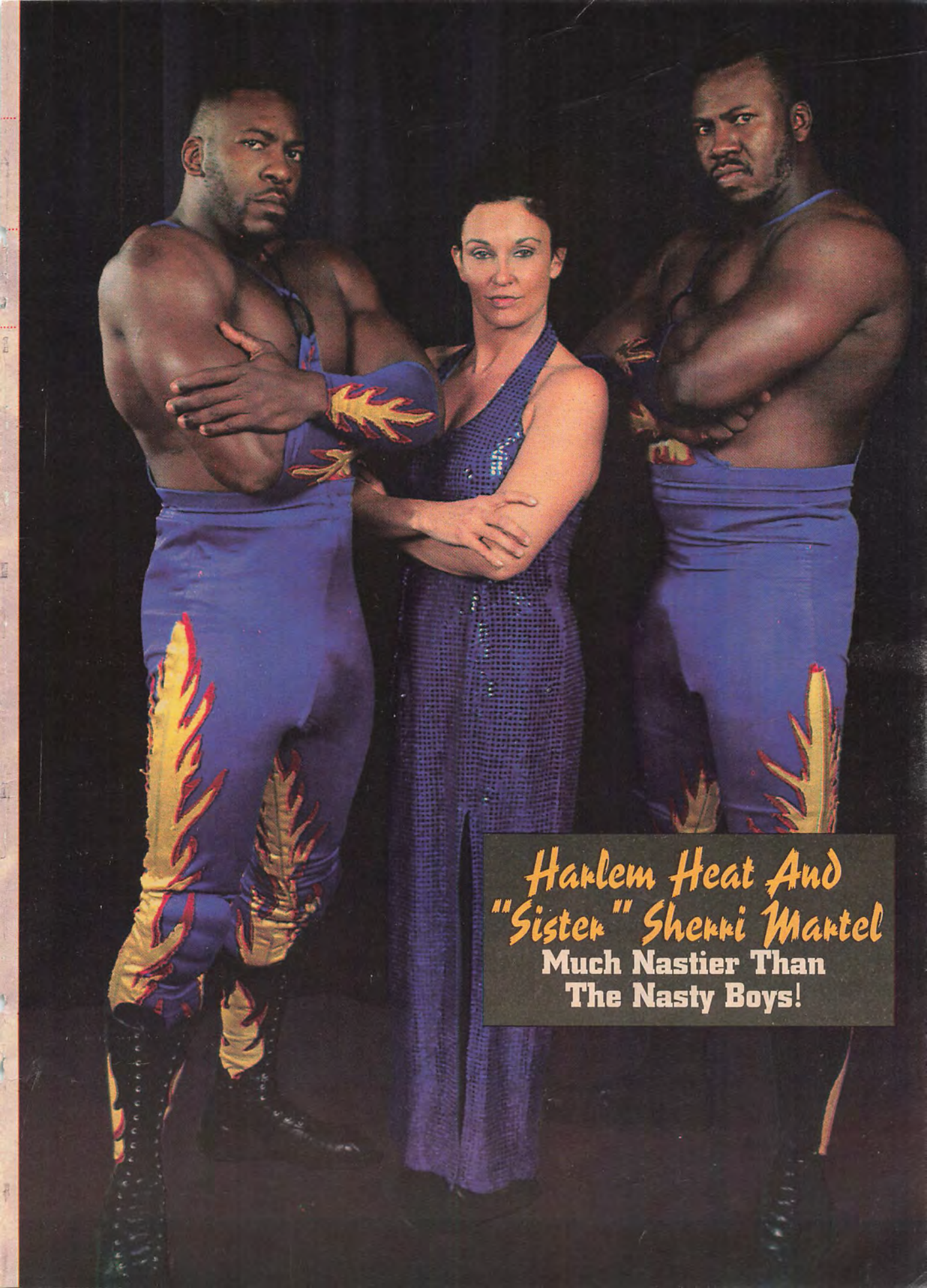
But those who support the contention that Hart is racist point

(Continued on page 72)

When Bret Hart went to Japan to defend the WWF World title in 1994, he insisted on defending against ... Bam Bam Bigelow? "The Hitman" labeled himself a fighting champion, yet refused to defend against anyone from Japan.

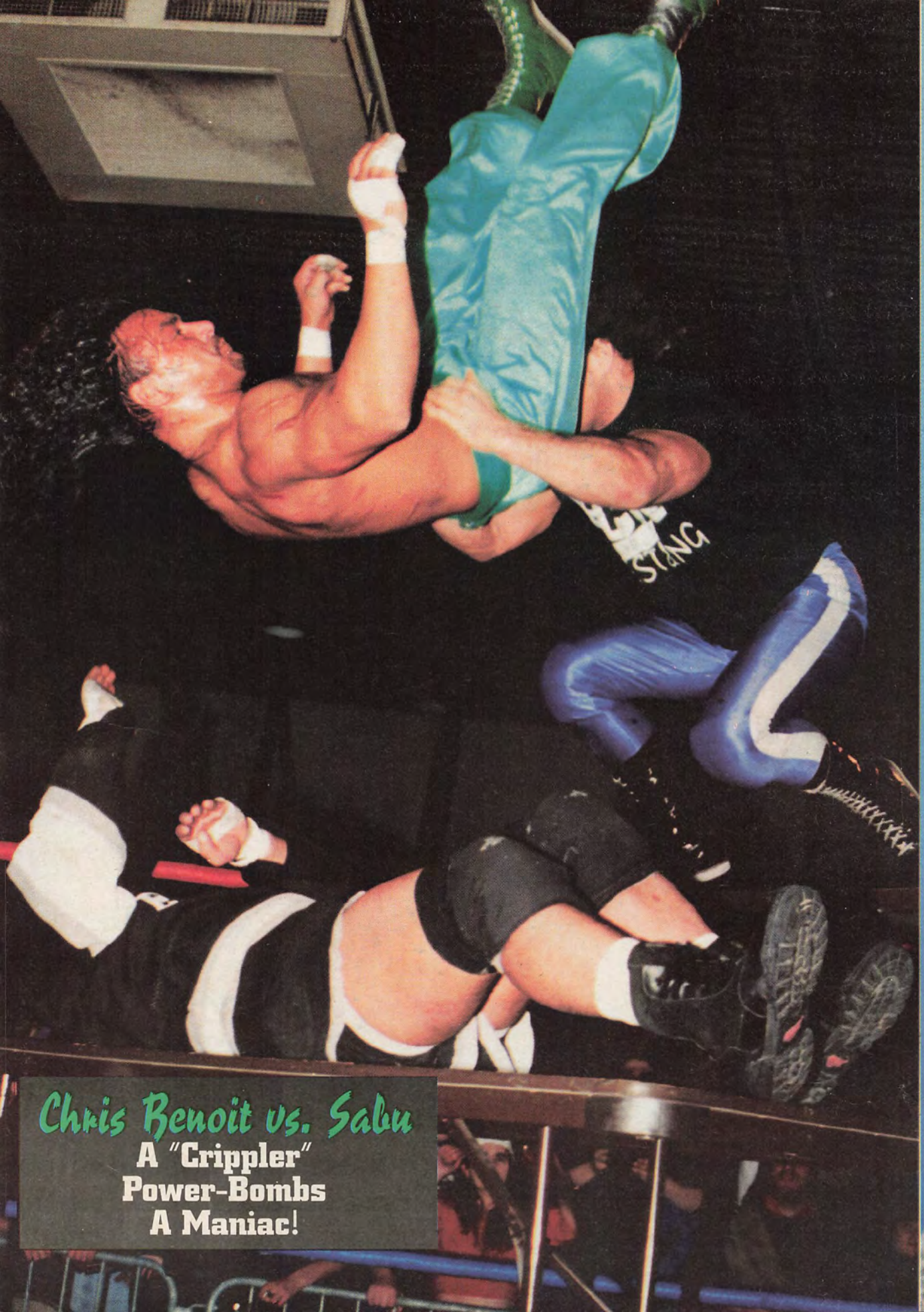


Hart never treated Yokozuna with any respect when Bret was WWF World champ. He feared Yoko would win the title and defend it occasionally in the Far East. Unlike Hart, Yoko respects people regardless of their race.



Harlem Heat And "Sister" Sherri Martel

Much Nastier Than The Nasty Boys!



Chris Benoit vs. Sabu

A "Crippler" Power-Bombs A Maniac!

CLOSEUP

Big Van Vader

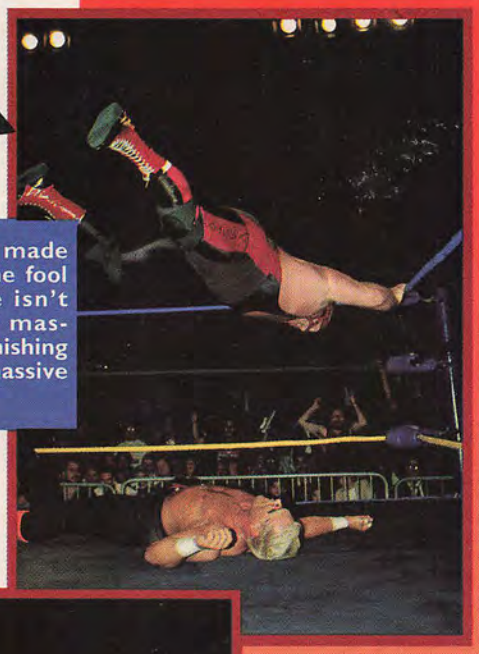
NAME: Big Van Vader
BIRTHPLACE: Denver, Colorado
HEIGHT: 6'5"
WEIGHT: 450 pounds
CURRENT AFFILIATION: Exclusively WCW in the U.S., but he periodically competes for Japan's UWFI promotion
MANAGEMENT: Ric Flair
TITLES WON: CWA heavyweight (defeated Otto Wanz in March 1987 and lost the belt to Wanz in July 1987; defeated Wanz in August 1989 and lost the belt to Wanz in June 1990; defeated Mark Rambo in December 1990 and lost the belt to Rambo in July 1991); IWGP heavyweight (defeated Shinya Hashimoto in a tournament final on April 24, 1989, and lost to Salman Hashimikov on May 25, 1989; defeated Riki Choshu on August 10, 1989, and lost to Choshu on August 19, 1989; defeated Tatsumi Fujinami on December 26, 1990, and lost to Fujinami on March 4, 1991); IWGP tag team (teamed with Bam Bam Bigelow to defeat Hiroshi Hase and The Great Muta on March 1, 1992; they lost to Rick and Scott Steiner on June 26, 1992); WCW World heavyweight (defeated Sting on July 16, 1992, and lost to Ron Simmons on August 8, 1992; defeated Ron Simmons on December 20, 1992, and lost to Sting on March 11, 1993; defeated Sting on March 17, 1993, and lost to Ric Flair on December 27, 1993); WCW U.S. heavyweight (defeated Hacksaw Duggan on December 27, 1994)
BIGGEST MATCH: Power-bombed (and nearly crippled!) a helpless and weak Cactus Jack on April 21, 1993
AMATEUR BACKGROUND: Wrestled in high school
TRAINED FOR THE PROS BY: Brad Rheingans
MADE HIS DEBUT IN: 1985, as The Baby Bull in the AWA
SIGNATURE MOVE: Power-bombing anyone and everyone who gets in his way, both inside and outside the ring!
BIGGEST STRENGTH: Incredible killer instinct
BIGGEST WEAKNESS: Tends to show off too much, often trying to execute moonsaults and other aerial moves instead of simply overpowering his overmatched opponents
WORD THAT MOST CHARACTERIZES THIS STAR: Bonecrushing
IN HIS OWN WORDS: "I get a lot of satisfaction out of winning titles, but what I love most is hearing a man's bones crunch when I rip him to shreds!"

BIG VAN

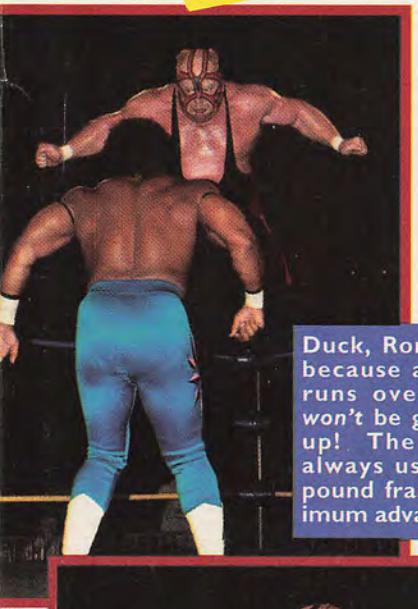
Punishing ... bone-jarring ... crippling ... all good words to describe our favorite finishing move: Vader's power bomb. Poor Nikita Koloff!

Action Gallery"

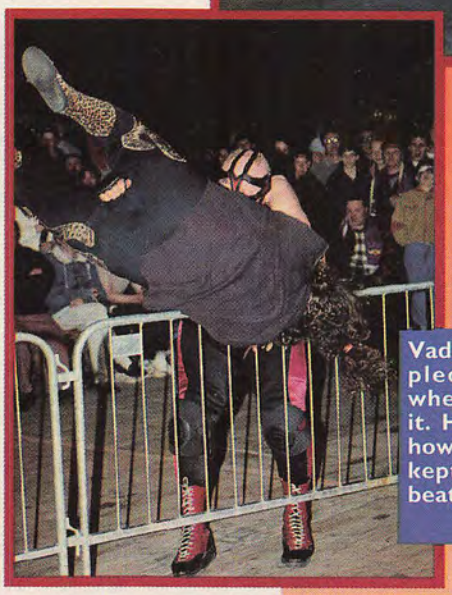
VADER



Vader has often made Sting look like the fool that he is. If he isn't power-bombing mascara boy, he is finishing him off with a massive reverse splash.

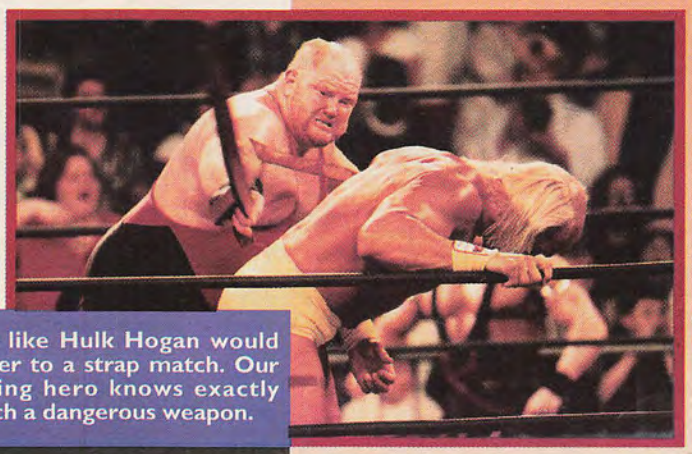


Duck, Ron Simmons, because after Vader runs over you, you *won't* be getting back up! The big man always uses his 450-pound frame to maximum advantage!



Vader could have crippled Cactus Jack whenever he felt like it. He decided not to, however, and the idiot kept coming back for beating after beating.

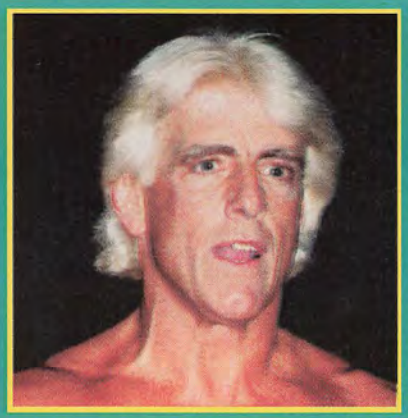
The Guardian Angel must have felt one too many of Vader's overpowering clotheslines. He smartly decided that it was best to cross over to Vader's side.



Only an idiot like Hulk Hogan would challenge Vader to a strap match. Our power-bombing hero knows exactly how to use such a dangerous weapon.

OTHER VIEWPOINTS

Big Van Vader



"I've been both friend and foe of Vader, and let me tell you this: It's better to be on the same side with him. He has redefined brutality in wrestling."

—Ric Flair

"He's a scary man. You can't make a mistake against Vader. One wrong move, and he could cripple you just like that. The man gets off on inflicting pain."

—Ron Simmons

"I still haven't recovered from the beatings I took from him. I don't even remember half of 'em. Vader tries to hurt and maim. I hate his guts, but I respect him!"

—Cactus Jäck

"I knew from the first time I saw him that this guy was special. I've seen a lot of fearless, brutal men in my time, but no man is quite like Vader."

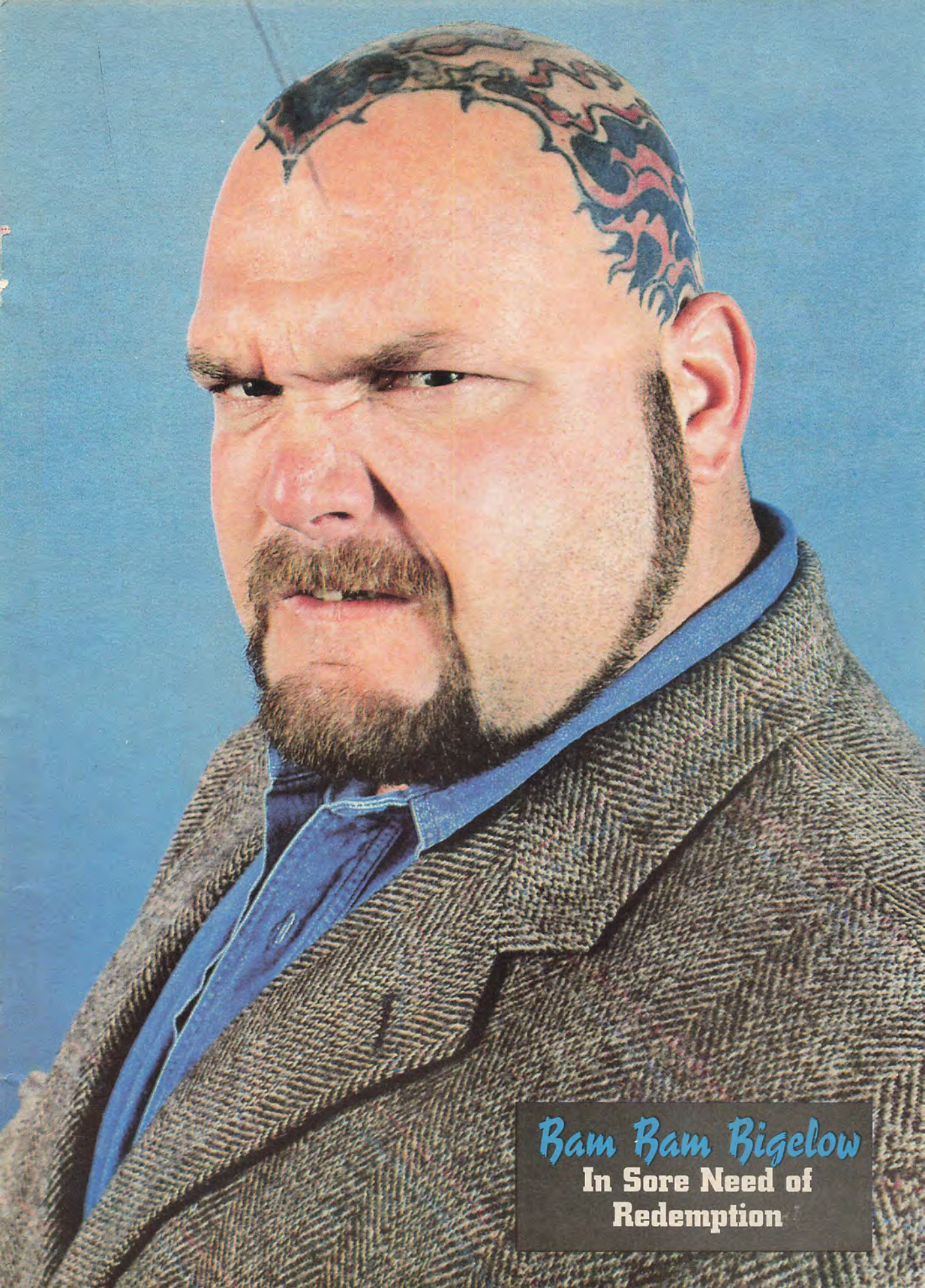
—Harley Race

"There's no wrestler in the world that I fear, but you really have to be wary of Vader. Every match you take against that monster could easily be your last."

—Sting

"When you try to brawl with Vader, it's like trying to knock down a brick wall with your fists. He's tough to beat because he doesn't have many weaknesses!"

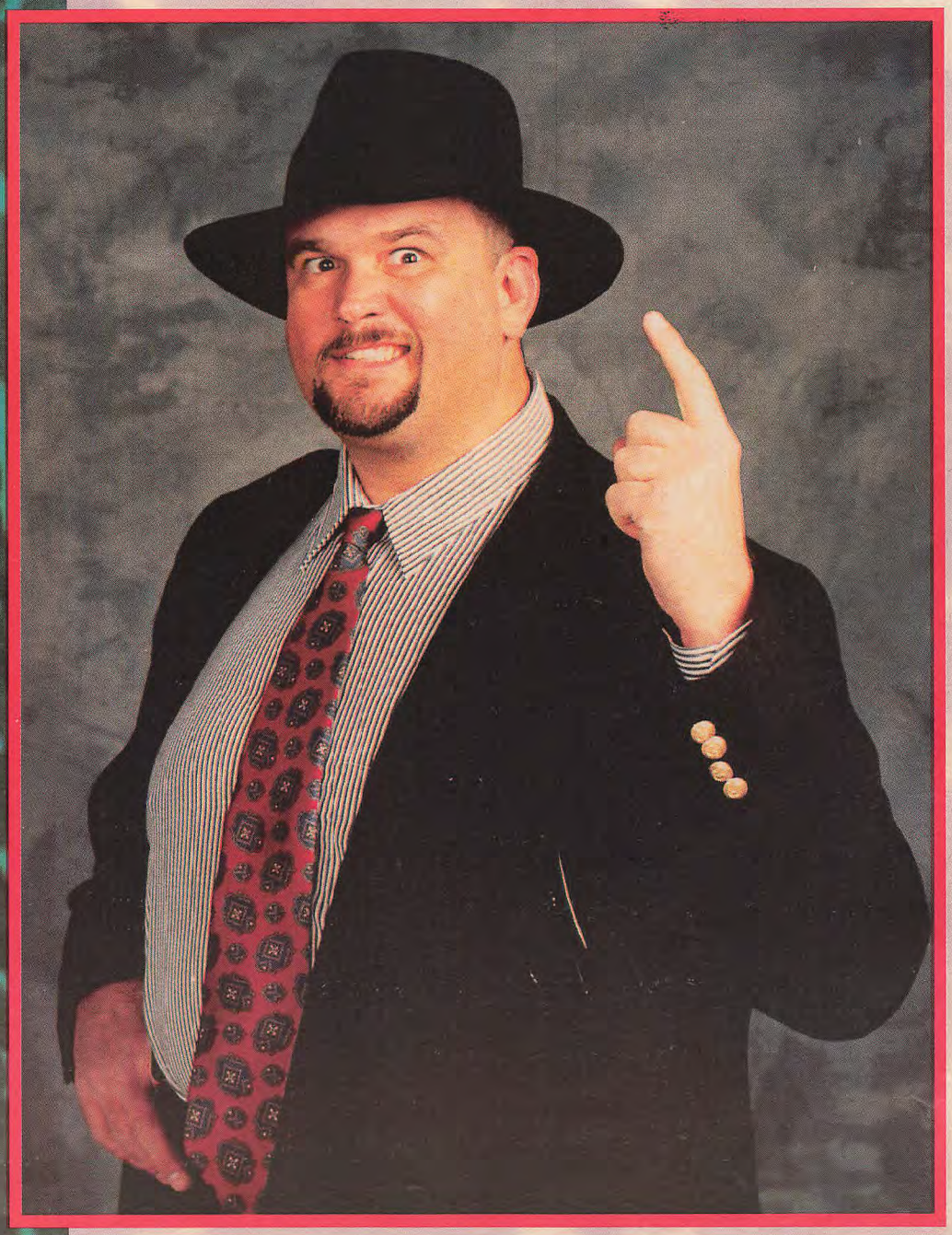
—Hacksaw Duggan



Bam Bam Bigelow
In Sore Need of Redemption

Interview

Big Bubba Rogers



"I DISPENSE MY OWN BRAND OF JUSTICE!"

Big Bubba Rogers has no problem lifting Sting high into the air and bodyslamming him. Too bad poor Sting isn't strong enough to do the same to Bubba. He isn't good enough to *beat* Bubba, either.

IT'S A CANDY ... it's a gum ... it's both! That was the television pitch for a sweet treat called "Razzles," which you may still be able to find at your local candy store. Razzles was ... well, it was hard to figure out what it was. When you first put it in your mouth, it seemed like it was candy. But the longer you chewed it, the more it changed consistency and became like gum. So it really was both a candy and a gum.

Big Bubba Rogers is the Razzles of wrestling. Those who rush to judge him as a tried-and-true rulebreaker seem to forget his stint as a prison guard in Cobb County, Georgia. Or the fact that he was enlisted as an honorary member of The Guardian Angels. Or that WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel thought enough of him to name him special referee for some of the biggest matches in the federation over the last two years.

But all of this work in law enforcement doesn't make Rogers a fan favorite, either. Rogers thinks nothing of swinging his nightstick upside the head of his opponent or taking a cheap shot at a foe after restraining him with handcuffs. In his role as special referee, Rogers administered his own brand of justice instead of enforcing the rules of the federation. And he is one ex-WWF superstar who has not re-aligned himself with WCW World champion Hulk Hogan.

So what exactly is Rogers? Right now, he's a winner. Big Bubba is coming off a pinfall victory over Sting at WCW Uncensored in Tupelo, Mississippi, which ranks as one of the biggest upsets in the sport this year.

None of the "experts" expected Rogers to give Sting a battle, much less win. But Rogers foiled a leapfrog attempt by Sting early in the match, injuring his opponent's leg. He targeted the injured leg throughout the match, and when Sting foolishly tried to press Rogers above his head, the leg gave. Rogers landed right on Sting and held on for the three-count.

We were not surprised by Rogers' victory. We always knew he could wrestle with the best of them. But the win did provide good timing for this interview. Senior Writer Chris Bernucca sat down with Rogers several days after his defeat of Sting to find out exactly what set of rules Rogers lives by.

"There's very little gray area," Bernucca confirmed. "Big Bubba deals in absolutes—black and white, right and wrong. Whether he's competing in the ring or disciplining prisoners, it's his way or the wrong way. And his morals and ethics don't change with his stance in the ring. He transcends the terms rulebreaker and fan favorite."

WRESTLING BAD GUYS: Before we get into more important issues, let's talk about your upset of Sting.

BIG BUBBA ROGERS: My ***what?***

WBG: Your upset of Sting.

ROGERS: That was no upset. I don't know why everybody is calling that an upset. Was there a point spread? Was there a betting line that said Sting was favored?

WBG: No there wasn't, but Sting is a three-time former WCW World champion, and ...

ROGERS: He ***was*** a three-time champion. Tell me what the man has done in the last two years. Has he won any titles? Has he had any fantastic matches? He's been living on a reputation perpetrated by magazines like yours.

WBG: Not this magazine. We feel the same way about Sting as you do.

ROGERS: Then why did you call it an upset? I can tell you I expected to win, so much so that I began to feel a lot of pressure. I felt like I had more to lose by losing than Sting did. He hasn't won a big match in months. Why would another loss make anything different for him?

WBG: I see your point. What did you stand to lose by losing?

ROGERS: Plenty. Nick Bockwinkel was looking to make an example of me. He was upset with what I had done as special referee. Taking me off matches wasn't enough for him; he wanted to totally embarrass me. So he pushed for a match between me and Sting, thinking that Sting would beat me and really take me down a couple of pegs. Sorry, Nicky Boy, I guess things don't always work out the way they're planned.

WBG: You think Bockwinkel was trying to railroad you?

ROGERS: Giving Nick Bockwinkel the job of commissioner was the biggest joke in the sport. WCW hired a name, hoping he would command respect. But he's nothing but a front man for the executives who only care about one wrestler: Hulk Hogan. Why do you think he made me special referee?

WBG: Why?

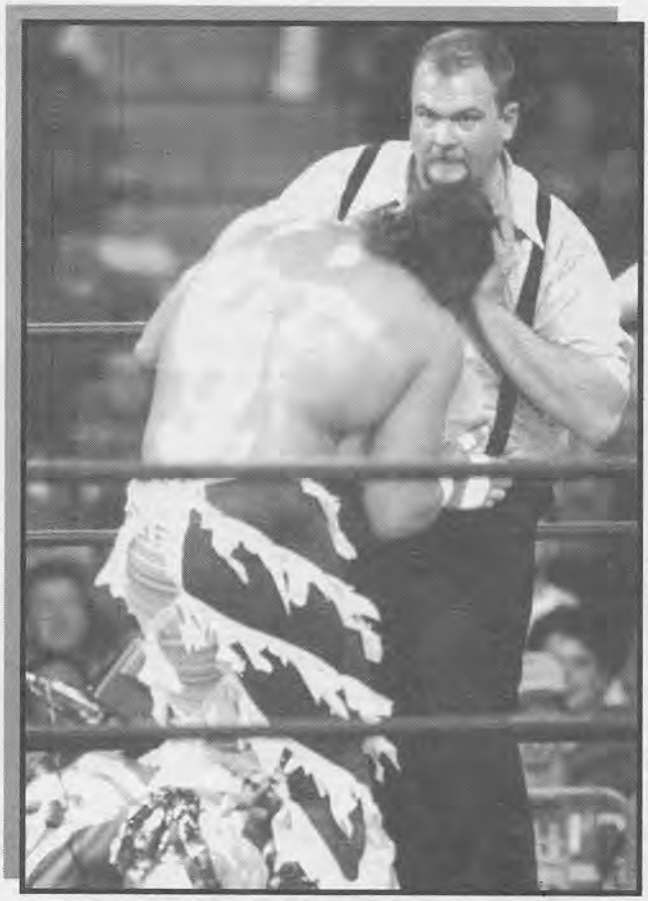
ROGERS: Because they thought I'd be helping Hogan. He thought I was tight with Hogan and would be helping him with rulings in big matches. I couldn't care less about Hulk Hogan. I care about Bubba Rogers.

WBG: You're saying that the front office at WCW has an agenda to protect Hulk Hogan?

ROGERS: No, you said that. What I'm saying is that I wasn't going to buy into whatever they were selling, because that's not what I'm about.

WBG: What are you about?

ROGERS: Right now, about 310 pounds ***(Laughs)***. No, really, I'm about doing what's right. Like what happened with Sting against Avalanche. I



Watch out, Randy Savage: Once Bubba is through with Sting, he might come after you at full-speed. Bubba is one former WWF star who has been smart and courageous enough to not hang out with Hulk Hogan.

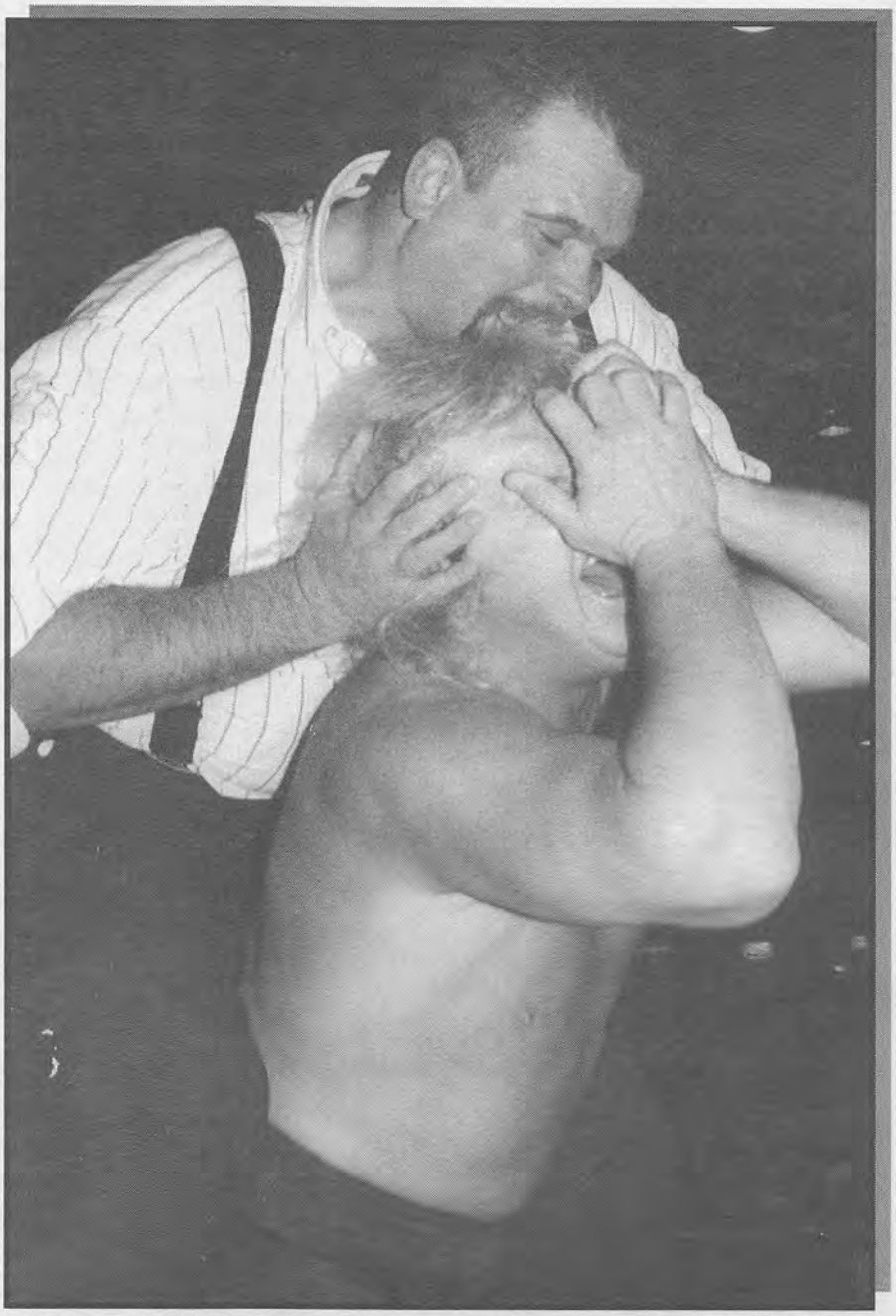
didn't see a reason to call for the bell, so I didn't. All of a sudden, Nick Patrick comes running in and calls for the bell. So I'm standing there like a jerk. I guess I'm special referee until WCW doesn't think my decisions are so special. Then they send in a veteran to overrule me and make me look like the back end of a horse. That's why I started a brawl. I figured if they aren't going to let me—a referee—enforce the rules, then how much do the rules really mean?

WBG: I guess they only mean something when they affect one of their favorite sons.

ROGERS: Now you're catching on. You see, the suits at WCW don't give a damn about wrestling. They don't care about integrity, spirit of competition, or any of that stuff. All they care about is the bottom line. And if that's all they're going to care about, I can play that game, too.

WBG: Is that how you operated when you were a prison guard?

ROGERS: Yes, for the same reason: A bunch of guys in suits gave me no choice. What WCW doesn't understand—which is the same thing the prison wardens didn't understand—is that you have to deal with people as individuals. I'll give you an example.



This is vintage Bubba. If you can't get a guy down with your fists, bite him until he begs for mercy. Rogers says he'll do anything necessary to beat a man up, and we applaud him for it.

WBG: Shoot.

ROGERS: You got a prisoner who never gets out of line. He's looking to do good time. He doesn't make trouble. He spends his free time lifting weights, playing cards, reading in the library. Now if he and I get into a situation where we don't see eye-to-eye, first time around he gets the benefit of the doubt. Because in my mind, he's built up a credit rating. Follow me?

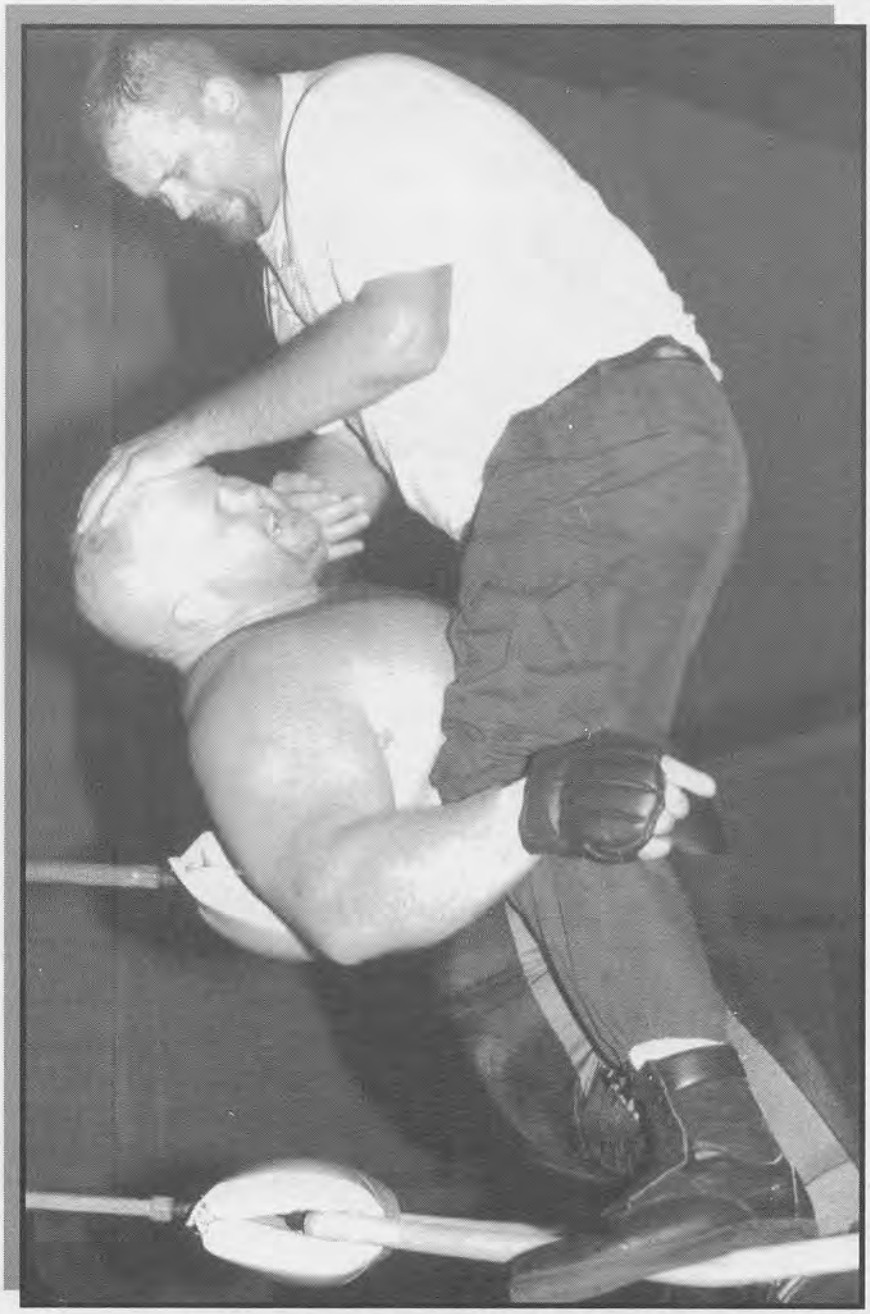
WBG: Yes, but ...

ROGERS: But then you've got someone else. A troublemaker. Threatens other prisoners, gets into fights over the television, gives the guards dirty

looks. Always tests your patience. Now, when he and I get into it, he gets taken into a stairwell and gets a nightstick across the ribs. Why? Because that's what he understands.

WBG: What's your point?

ROGERS: The point is the warden doesn't understand that. The civil rights groups don't understand that. They say every prisoner is to be treated the same, and the way you're supposed to treat 'em is the first way, even if they spit in your face. Because if you treat 'em the second way, they don't call it discipline. They call it brutality, even though they have no idea what brutality is. And that's why I'm a ***former*** prison guard.



A few months ago, Rogers did well in matches against Big Van Vader. He's definitely a viable rulebreaker now, especially since he ditched that ridiculous Guardian Angels uniform.

WBG: But you still carry some of those principles with you.

ROGERS: Principles don't leave you when you leave a job. Morals don't leave you. I don't need WCW or Nick Bockwinkel or Hulk Hogan to tell me the difference between right and wrong. I dispense my own brand of justice. I don't change for anybody, and if WCW doesn't like it, that's too bad.

WBG: Is there anybody in WCW you'd like to show some good old-fashioned discipline?

ROGERS: Yeah, there's a few guys.

WBG: Like who?

ROGERS: There's no reason for me to get specific, but I will say that not all of them wear tights. The ones who wear tights, we can settle our differences in the ring. Or in the locker room ... or the parking lot. I've had homemade knives pulled on me. I've had a guy try to stick a syringe in my neck. You don't know what a cage match is until you've been in a prison. You think I'm scared of any of these guys? There's guys in prison—hell, there's people walking the streets that would eat Sting for lunch.

WBG: Let's talk about eating for a minute. You've had weight problems throughout your career.

ROGERS: Everyone takes care of themselves in different ways. I used to work with a prison guard that couldn't function without starting his day

with a half-pint of vodka. After that, he didn't need anything else, and he was fine. That was his morning coffee. I don't concern myself that much with working out. For me, it's a waste of time.

WBG: Why?

ROGERS: Do I look like I care about physical conditioning? I don't need 90 minutes in the gym to keep the edge on. The edge is always on, and that's enough to make me the toughest man in the ring. When I lose that edge, that's when I leave. No workout is gonna bring it back. Either you have it or you don't.

WBG: Are there other wrestlers that you respect?

ROGERS: Of course.

WBG: Like who?

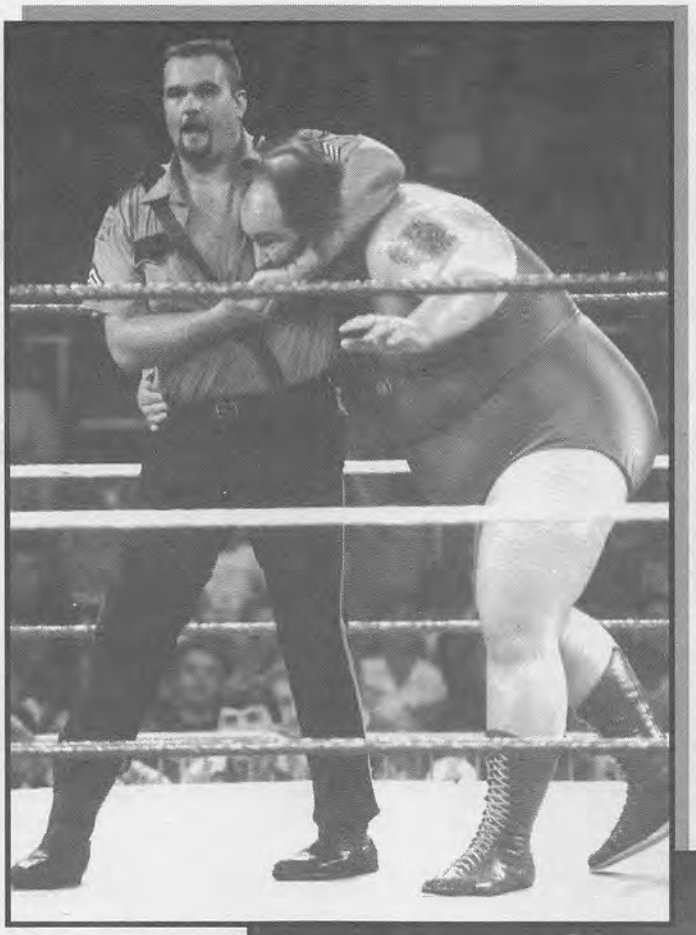
ROGERS: Like Ric Flair, like Big Van Vader, like a lot of guys. That's not important. What is important is what are the guidelines for respecting someone. I respect anyone—wrestler or not—that earns my respect. I can respect a guy doing life for murder or a 17-year-old orphan riding the subways for The Guardian Angels. I won't give respect to a guy like Eric Bischoff, who hides behind the rulings of a front man. I won't respect Bockwinkel, because he doesn't have the sense to refuse to do something that is demeaning. And I won't respect people like Sting and Hogan, who are living on reputations instead of achievements.

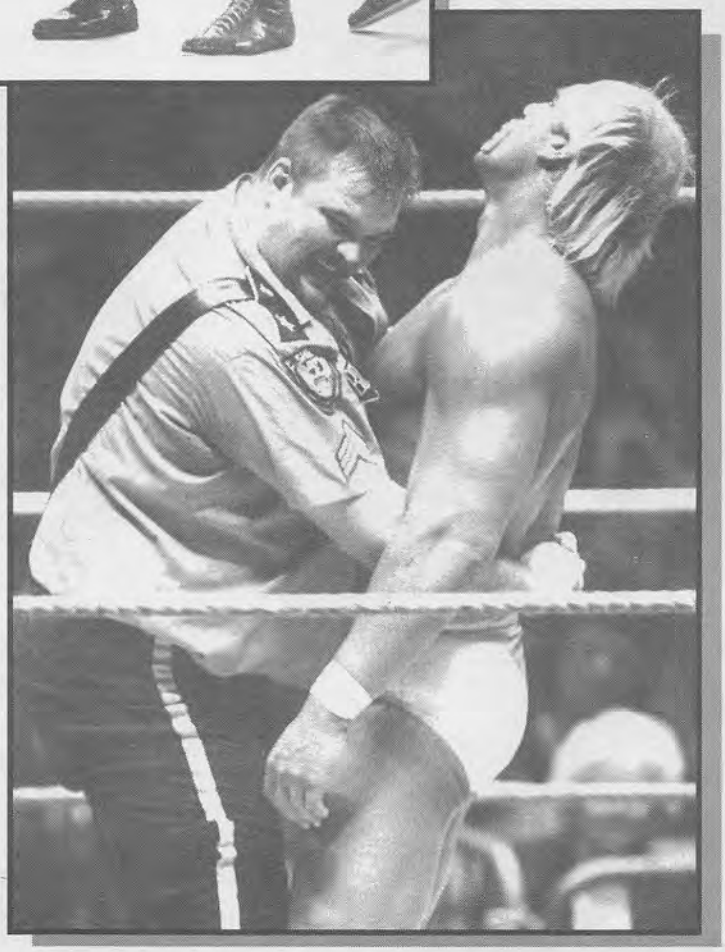
WBG: What about your reputation and achievements?

ROGERS: My reputation speaks for itself. If there's anyone out there who wants to test it, they know where to find me. As far as achievements go, maybe now that I've beaten Sting, the promoters will take me a little more seriously and give me better matches.

WBG: Do you want to win a title?

ROGERS: It would be nice, but I already have a title. Big Bubba Rogers. Kinda catchy, ain't it?

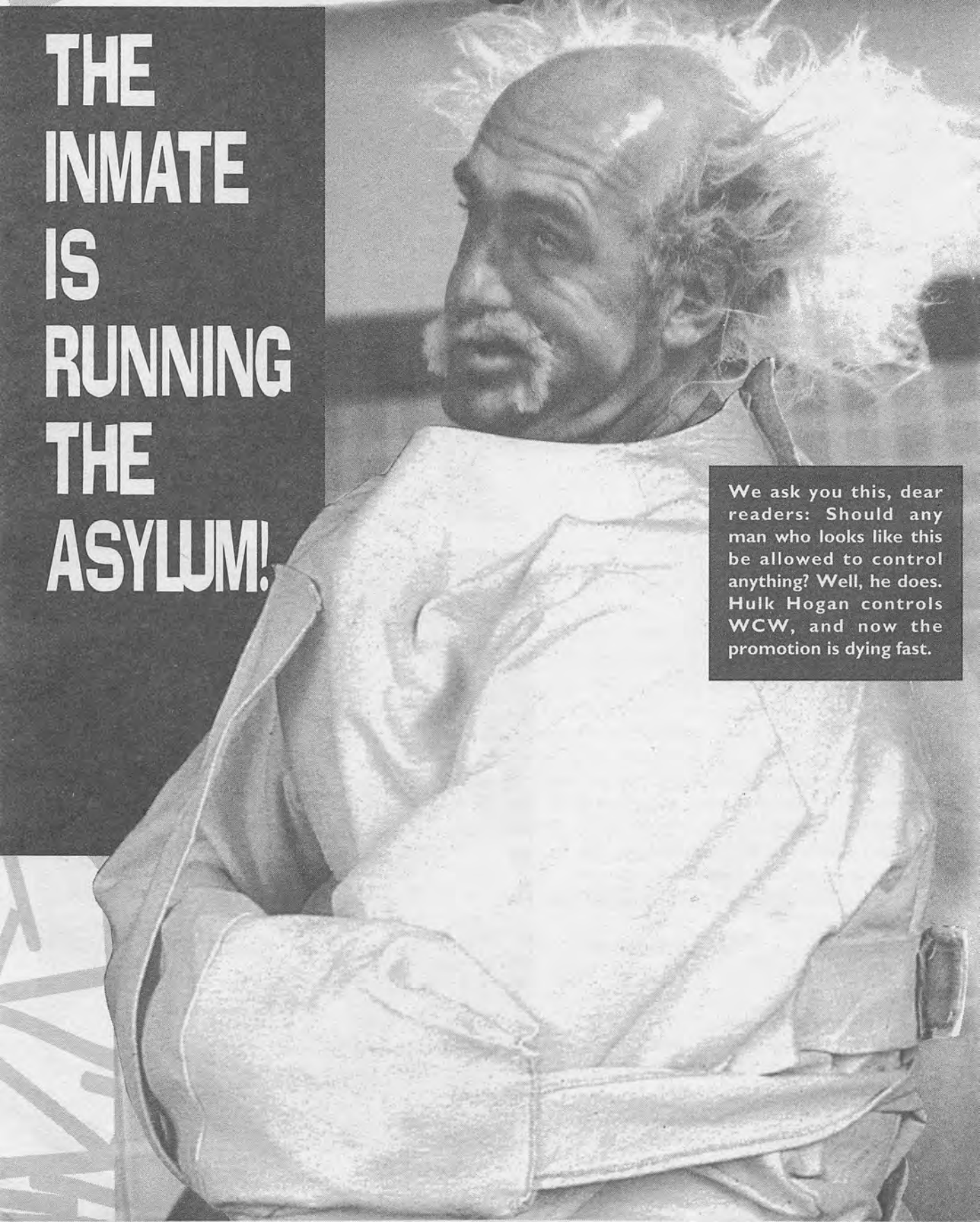




Back in his WWF days, Rogers was Big Bossman, a fan favorite who took on Avalanche, who was then Earthquake (left), and earlier a rulebreaker who made life hell for Hulk Hogan (below). We definitely like him more as a rulebreaker and look forward to seeing him beat up Hogan again soon.

WCW In Hogan's Control

THE INMATE IS RUNNING THE ASYLUM!



We ask you this, dear readers: Should any man who looks like this be allowed to control anything? Well, he does. Hulk Hogan controls WCW, and now the promotion is dying fast.

WCW gave Hulk Hogan an inch, and he has taken a mile. Or two. He has turned the federation into his own little fantasy world where he does more than break the rules—he makes them!

By Chris Bernucca

THE NICE FOLKS at WCW have nothing but nice things to say about Hulk Hogan. Since he joined the federation nearly one year ago, ticket sales are up, television ratings are up, pay-per-view buy rates are up, and merchandising revenues are up. Everything is up. Ask the other wrestlers. They're up, too.

Fed up.

While the suits tell you everything is fine and dandy at WCW, the wrestlers say otherwise. The ones without ties to Hogan tell you that he is a manipulative egomaniac and control freak who has spent the last year pulling the kind of power plays on the folks at CNN Center that will ensure him of a long and lucrative stay at the top.

Who else gets a title match in his federation debut? Who else doesn't have to defend his title at least once every 30 days? Who else gets to fill the federation with longtime "friends" who use their alliance with the champion to get undeserved title shots of their own? Who else ducks the top contender for months? Who else decides that "Uncensored" also means "unsanctioned"?

"He thinks he's the emperor," Steve Austin said.

"He's turning WCW into his own personal theme park," Kevin Sullivan added.

"The worst thing about it," Ric Flair noted, "is that he doesn't think he's doing anything wrong. Hogan's been perpetrating this fraud for so long that he thinks that is how it works."

Stop the insanity!

There has been plenty of winking and nodding since Hogan entered WCW last summer, starting with the unwritten agreement that he was to receive a title bout in his federation debut. The last wrestler to be that fortunate was Jushin Liger, and he was challenging for the light heavyweight title. Hogan felt he was better than anything and anyone WCW had to offer and felt he shouldn't have to win his way up the rankings, which is what every wrestler not named Hulk Hogan has had to do.

Winning the belt from Flair in his first match did little to temper the contempt from other wrestlers that developed when WCW gave him the match in the first place.

Big Van Vader was entitled to another title match with Flair after his rematch at SuperBrawl IV ended in a farce. A closer look at what happened in that bout reveals that the person most involved in turning the match into a circus was The Boss, then an ally of Hogan's from his days in the WWF. Vader's legitimate beef was quickly swept under the rug when Hogan arrived.

"That was no coincidence," broadcaster Bobby Heenan said.

Hogan should have been forced to wrestle a real rulebreaker at Starrcade '94, but he decided to defend the WCW World title against a former friend, Brutus Beefcake. Looking back, we're surprised he defended it at all.

There is absolutely no way Hogan can beat Vader on his own (above). And he knows it, too. Why else would he keep paying off pathetic lackeys like The Renegade (right) to interfere in his matches?

"Removing Vader from the title picture cleared the biggest obstacle in Hogan's path to the title. There were rumors that he didn't want to wrestle Vader, and he got what he wanted. You think that was just dumb luck?"

Apparently it *was* just dumb luck when Hacksaw Duggan showed up at the last minute to replace an injured Rick Steamboat in a U.S. heavyweight title match against Austin at Fall Brawl '94. With no preparation time, Austin was easy prey for an undeserving foe. It had taken just two matches for Hogan and another friend to take control of the two highest spots in the rankings. Normally, it takes even the best wrestler at least a dozen matches to work his way into championship form.

After Flair lost rematches with Hogan, fans and promoters began inquiring about the possibility of a title match between Hogan and Vader. Hogan talked tough but instead granted a title match to Brutus Beefcake, another old friend who had "turned against" Hogan. After losing to Hogan, Beefcake quickly started making noises about patching things up with his buddy.

"When they gave Beefcake the match instead of us, I nearly keeled over," said Harley Race, Vader's former manager who has been forced to step aside because of health problems. "They said we would get the next one. That was what they had been saying ever since Hogan won the belt. They lie like rugs. There's no doubt in my mind those guys are in cahoots with Hogan."

However, Vader pinned Duggan to win the U.S. belt and top-contender status. Now Hogan had no choice but to wrestle Vader. After a match at SuperBrawl V proved inconclusive, Hogan agreed to meet Vader on the WCW Uncensored pay-per-view card. However, "Uncensored" also meant "unsanctioned," a nice little twist covered up by a cloud of public relations and marketing. Hogan and Vader never did

wrestle to a decision that night. Hogan dragged Flair around the ring and won the match. But had Hogan lost, he still would have retained the belt, because the match was not sanctioned by the federation, despite the pathetic efforts of ring announcer Michael Buffer that indicated otherwise.

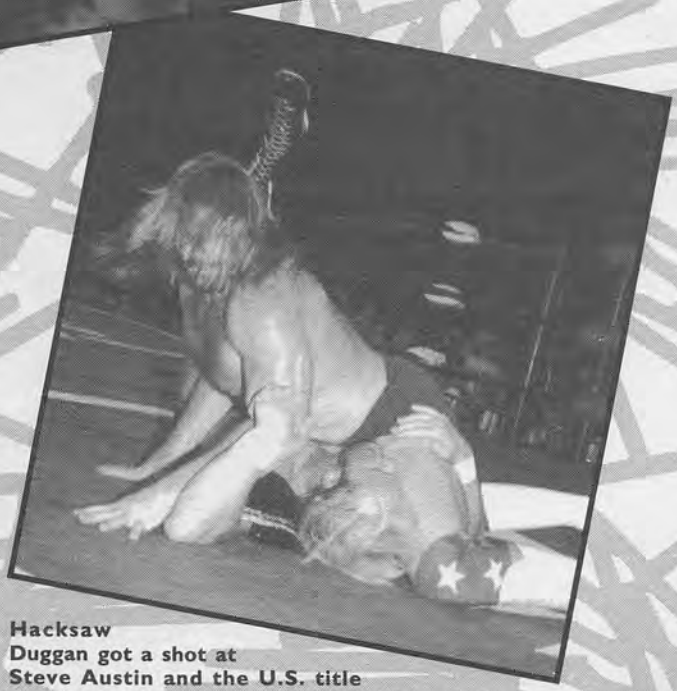
At the same time, Hogan has been using another buddy to parry the anticipated attack from another title contender. Randy Savage joined WCW earlier this year and formed a tag team with Sting, a three-time former WCW World champion who hasn't been near the title in two years. The partnership has filled Sting's schedule to the point where he can't possibly set aside enough time to make a run at the title, which Hogan still holds.

While all of this has been going on, Hogan has a deal with WCW that guarantees him a percentage of the revenues from each PPV event. PPV purchases are certain to remain at a steadily higher rate as long as Hogan is champion. By using his power to face chumps such as Beefcake instead of true contenders such as Vader, Hogan is lining his pockets. He has a similar deal with a telephone hotline, for which WCW provides free promotion during its TV programs.

Of course, no one at WCW will admit that Hogan has received preferential treatment. No one will say that the commissionership of Nick Bockwinkel is the biggest joke in the sport. No one will state that the WCW rankings are nothing more than a bunch of names and numbers.

Because by doing so, WCW would be admitting that one of the inmates—one with a classic "God complex" in a perpetual state of denial—is running the asylum.

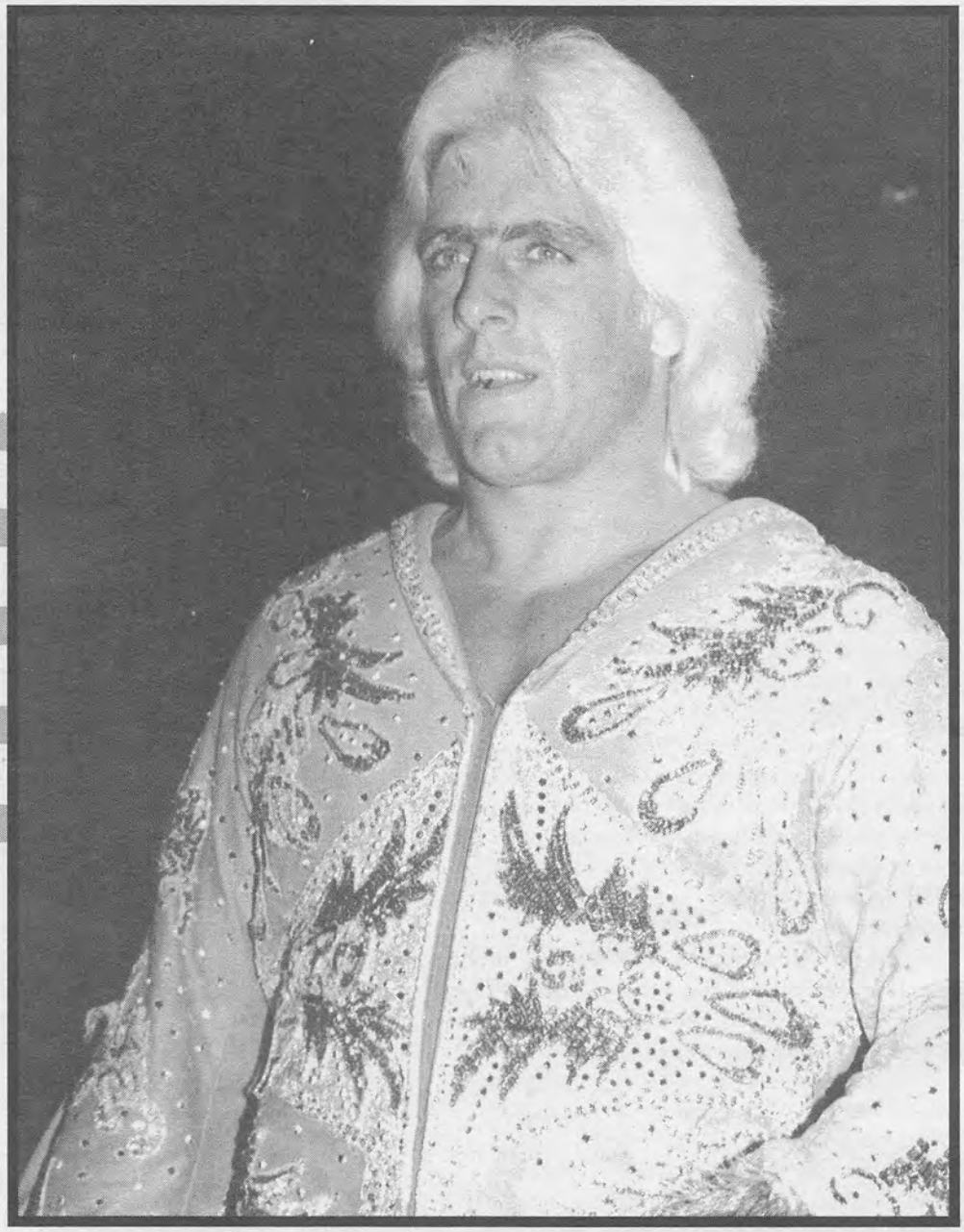
"I will do whatever I want in WCW! I am God! Everyone should worship me!" If Hogan were an honest man, that's what he would say on all his interviews, because that's what he believes.



Hacksaw Duggan got a shot at Steve Austin and the U.S. title shortly after he entered WCW last fall because he kowtows to Hogan. It certainly wasn't because he deserved a title shot!

Flair Of The

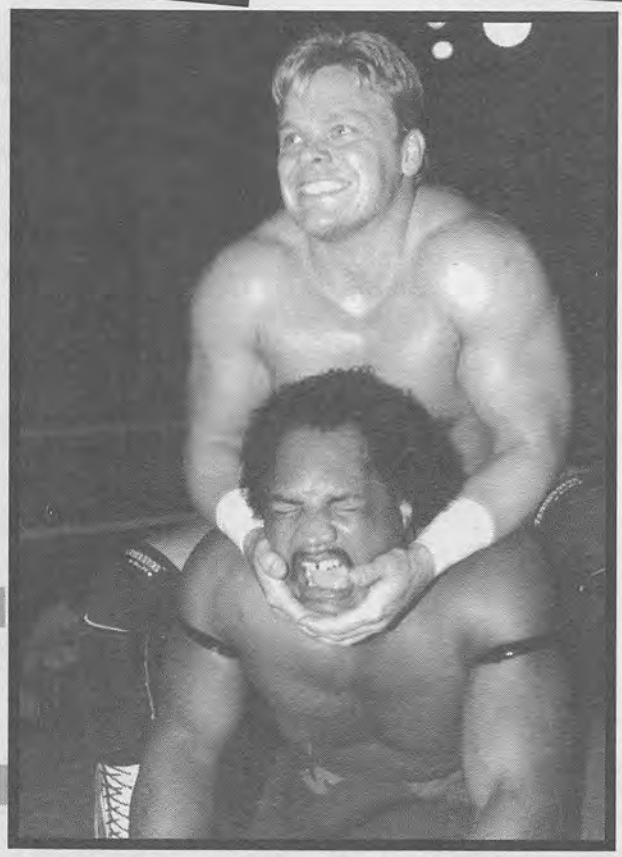
FIVE MEN WHO CAN FILL THE "NATURE BOY'S" SHOES



FUTURE

Is Ric Flair returning as a full-time wrestler? Probably, but even he can't stay around forever. We've picked out five stars who might have what it takes to replace a legend

By Chris Bernucca



Shane Douglas has the talent, determination, and stamina to become a Flair of the future. Most importantly, Douglas has the right attitude. How many other guys would throw down the NWA belt right after winning it?

HULK HOGAN WAS recently asked an interesting question: Who will be the next Ric Flair?

"The next Flair?" he answered. "Brother, I'm still concerned with the first Flair."

Normally, we don't care what Hogan thinks, but the "Hoaxster" has a point. Whether or not he returns to the ring on a full-time basis, the "Nature Boy" remains a potent force in this sport. When he finally concludes his days as an active competitor, he'll be sure to exert his influence as a manager, adviser, or even a promoter. Ric Flair is never going to be ignored.

Let's face it: There will never again be anyone like Flair. He's an original, and that's the way it should be. Still, when he puts away the boots and tights for good, he's going to create a huge vacuum. Remember what you learned in science class: Nature abhors a vacuum. The "Nature Boy" abhors a vacuum, too.

So who will be the "next Ric Flair"? Here are five who have a shot:

Shane Douglas. Last August, when Douglas renounced the NWA title he had just won in a tournament, wrestling's self-appointed guardians were aghast. How dare he, they asked. Spitting on the NWA belt that Ric Flair did so much to make great!

Actually, Douglas did a very Flair-like thing: He took a stand. By refusing to accept the championship of a watered-down NWA, he proved he'd rather be a

proud contender than the champion of a bogus federation.

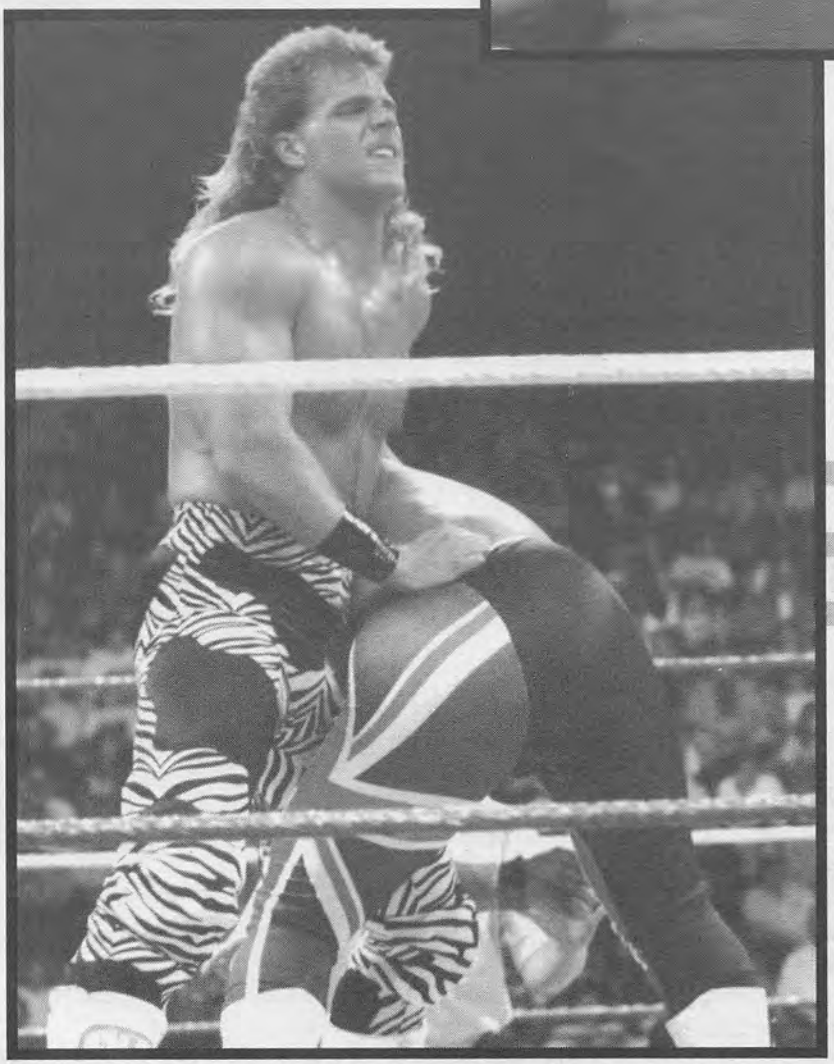
It was a gutsy move for a guy who, for almost a year now, has been the heavyweight champion of ECW, a federation where you need a lot of guts just to survive. Douglas has withstood vicious assaults and come out looking like a winner. It's doubtful that early in his career, when he was trying hard to please the fans, he could have done the same.

He says he hates Ric Flair, but deep down, he probably respects him and wants to be like him.

Now he has the right attitude. And that deserves a *"Whoooooo!"*

Shawn Michaels. A couple of years ago, we would have said Michaels was too concerned with his appearance to be a great wrestler. Indeed, the "Boy Toy," then managed by Sherri Martel, seemed to spend more time preening in front of mirrors than studying his opponents.

Jean-Paul LeVeque is just cocky enough to become one of the sport's next great stars. As a boy, he idolized Flair; now he says it's time for the "Nature Boy" to step aside. You gotta love the guy's attitude.



What can you say about Shawn Michaels that hasn't already been said? Smart and talented, he's far and away the best wrestler in the WWF, and he has known it for a long time.

Well, Michaels still cares a great deal about his looks. However, he also has been involved in some of the most thrilling bouts in years, proving in the process that he's one of the most outstanding technical wrestlers on the planet.

At this point, it looks like Michaels, a former WWF Intercontinental and tag team champion, is a cinch to win the World belt very soon. It doesn't hurt, either, to have Sid Vicious in his corner. Like Flair, Michaels knows the importance of having friends in the right places. Even the best need help.

Jean-Paul LeVeque. As a youngster, LeVeque idolized Flair.

(Continued on page 74)

Bad Guys CLASSICS

Our story archives are packed with all kinds of vile mischief! Each issue, we'll go back in time and relive a pair of classic feature stories—featuring some of the greatest stars and baddest attitudes ever!

CLASSIC #1

Funk vs. Lawler—
TERRY FUNK'S TOUGHEST MATCH... AND HIS BEST!

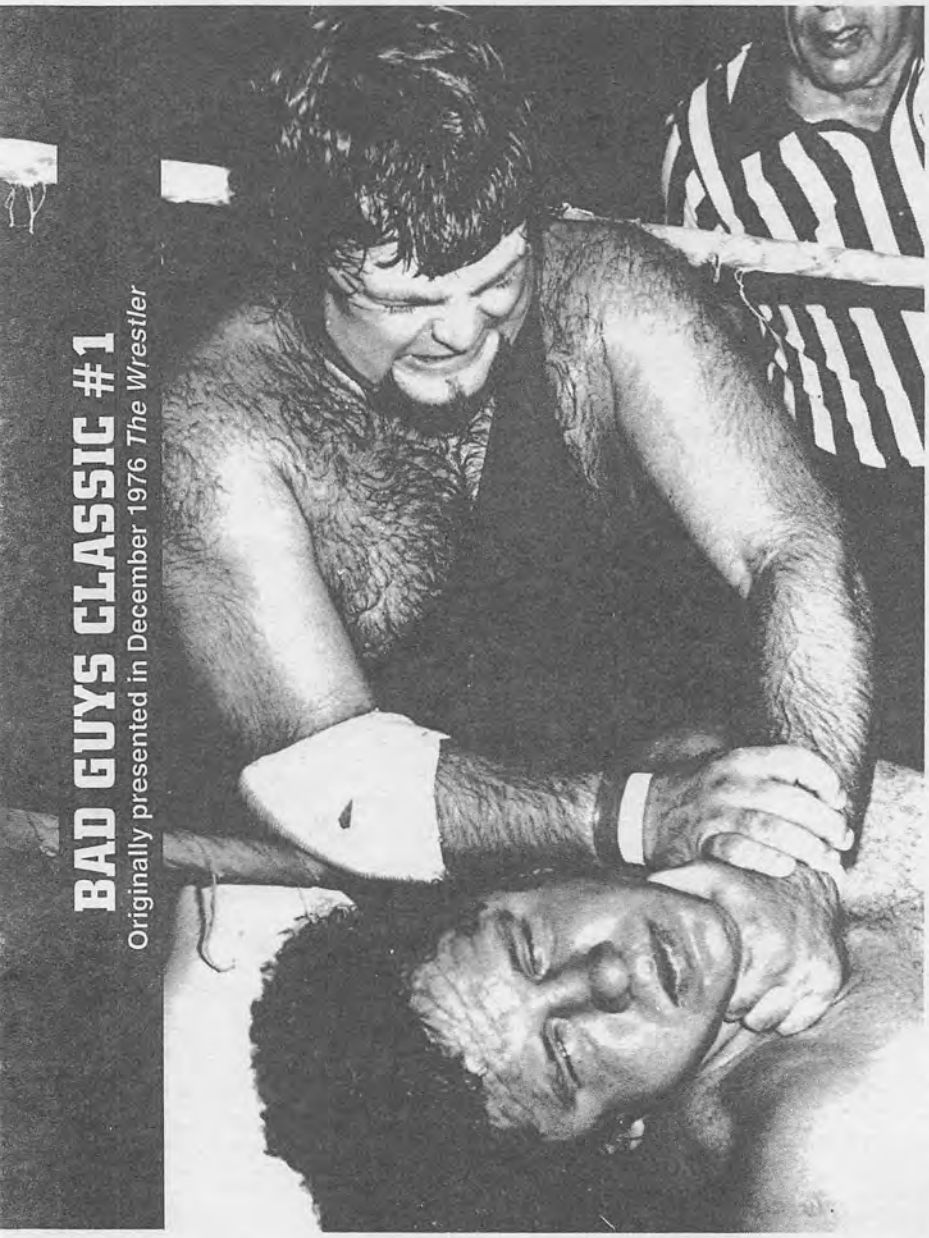
Nearly 20 years ago, Terry Funk was NWA World heavyweight champion, one of the few men who brought true pride to the title. At that time, he counted among his toughest bouts a title defense against Jerry "The King" Lawler, not a shabby rulebreaker on his best day, either. Today, Funk has proven it's possible to age both gracefully and brutally in the sport, while Lawler has softened his hard edges a bit too much for our tastes. If the rematch was held today, we'd pick Funk in a blowout.

PAUL JONES PROVES
IT PAYS TO BE DIRTY

CLASSIC #2

It's an age-old question: Does crime pay? In the wrestling world, the answer is a resounding "Yes!" But it's no real crime to break rules that are contrary to the very nature of the sport. Wrestling is violent, and wrestlers want to win. To try to curb the violence and wrestlers' aggressions is like asking Michael Jordan to wear lead sneakers. Paul Jones learned that rulebreaking is the surest way to success, and it spilled over into his managerial career years later.

Funk vs. Lawler–



BAD GUYS CLASSIC #1
Originally presented in December 1976 *The Wrestler*

Confident he's on the way to the NWA title (left) Jerry Lawler savagely chokes Funk. Terry is back in the driver's seat as he applies a painful split (above).

MUSCLES TREMBLING FROM exhaustion, Terry Funk slumped into a chair. His body lost its tension as legs and arms sprawled in all directions. Terry's chest heaved as he gasped for air. A puddle of sweat soon formed beneath him.

Reporters stood around him, though he didn't hear their questions. His mind was trying to sort through the jumble of images and sensations of what just happened into some understandable form. The only strength left in his body was being used by his fingers to clutch the NWA title belt. He had to make sure he still owned it. Funk had certainly earned it this evening.

TERRY FUNK'S TO

PHOTOS BY
BILL APTER

AND HI

When they realized their questions weren't going to be answered for a while, the reporters walked out to visit the foe who had almost taken Funk's belt. In his dressing room, Jerry Lawler lay on the training table. He was semi-conscious. The disappointment over losing would begin later; now there was only relief the battle was over.

Neither man would be ready to answer questions for at least an hour, so the gentlemen of the press wandered to a nearby bar to wait. Usually, when drinking after an assignment, reporters talk about anything but their work. Tonight, it was different. Tonight, the jaded press had become fans once again. The only topic of conversation was the match they had just witnessed.

"Terry Funk is great," one reporter said, shaking his head. "If you had told me three hours ago I'd ever say that, I'd have said you were crazy. I thought Funk was a lot of things, but not great. How can a guy who has spent 23 years watching wrestlers be so wrong?"

"I've always told you he was great," another chimed in, "but you didn't believe me. I knew when you stripped away the questionable tactics there was a base of wrestling greatness. There have been moments when it's shown through, when Funk executes better than anyone else in the sport. Tonight, though, he was better than I've ever seen him. Tonight, he proved himself a champion."

"And who would have thought he'd prove it against Lawler?" another asked, and everyone laughed. "Here is this animal named Lawler, a bully more than a wrestler. I'd have bet my wife and kids that guy didn't have a great match in him. Who'd have believed Lawler was really a wrestler disguised as a louse?"

"Do you believe that second fall?!" another announced to no one in particular. "I'm still not sure how Funk survived. Lawler did a number on him that would have destroyed most of the guys in this sport. Where did Lawler learn to be so good? Where does anyone learn to be that good?"

"Born with it," an elderly journalist proclaimed, "a man's born with that skill. It was just lying there, waiting for the right moment to come out. A championship match is the kind of thing that will do it. That second fall was the best Jerry Lawler has ever been. Hell, the man was better than most people could ever dream of being!"

"But Funk held his own!" the first

Since becoming NWA champion, Terry Funk has been called many things by many so-called experts—cheater, coward, and villain being among the more printable outbursts. However, after his recent title defense against Jerry Lawler, even the toughest critics must now call Terry Funk yet another name. But this time they are calling him "great!"

As the classic match continues, Jerry tries to pin Funk. But the sly champion will roll out and shortly lock Jerry in a vise-like headlock. The match will stand out for ever as an all time classic.

UGHEST MATCH...
S BEST!

A version of a toe hold (above) is Jerry Lawler's biggest problem at the moment. Jerry does break free and gets revenge when he flings Terry onto the ring apron and prepares to bash the NWA champion's head into a steel ringpost (below). Terry was almost counted out when he fell to the arena floor—but made it back by nine.

reporter declared in awe. "His defensive maneuvers were superb. He moved with the grace of a leopard. When Lawler had him in that armlock, I thought for sure Funk was doomed. Yet, he moved beautifully, perfectly made his escape. The way he rolled free, twisting his entire body, was incredibly fine. I hoped they filmed the match. People all over the world should see what this sport is all about."

"It wasn't just Funk's skill," another added, "it was his courage. The man had the guts of a bandit tonight. Did you see the way he moved when Lawler got him in that headlock? He could have cracked his back if he made even a slight error. That was the riskiest thing I've ever seen a champion do. He not only got away with it, but he broke Lawler's spirit at the same time. Don't blame Jerry, either. If it had happened to me, I'd have been in tears. That was one great headlock—for nothing!"

"What really must have killed Lawler, though," said another member of the group, "was that stepover toehold. I'll take all the disappointment in the world and survive it. But the pain from that toehold is more than I could take. What's more, it was perfectly done, really textbook perfect. That's what really foiled Jerry's title bid—Funk's perfection."

"Against anyone but Funk," another added, "Jerry Lawler would have been victorious tonight. He was superb. For about half the time, I thought we were in for a real upset. For the other half of the time, I didn't think Terry Funk could be beaten by a human. He was that good."

Eventually, the reporters stopped talking about the match and went to interview the wrestlers. Funk was the first to meet them. He was still weak from the match, all his adrenalin was spent. The only celebration after this match would be the sweet relief of sleep.

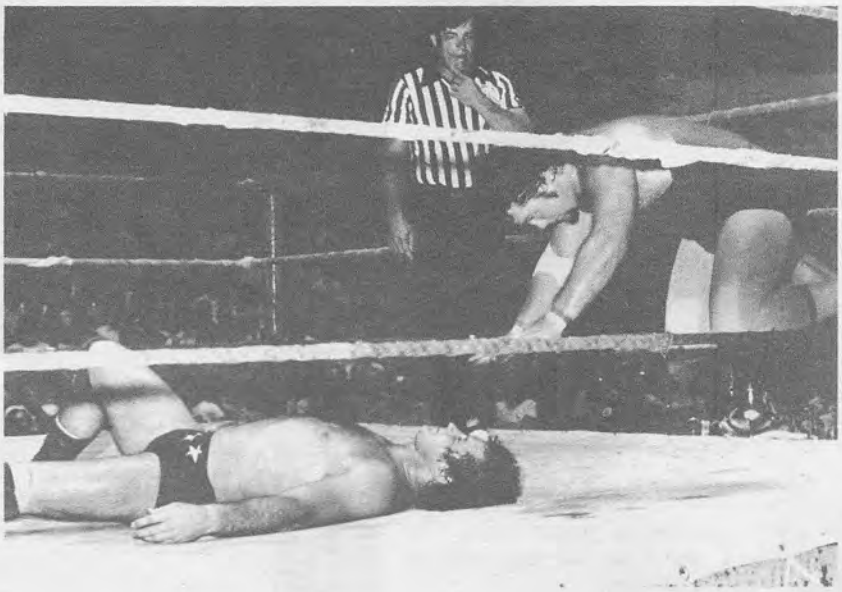
"I guess the criticism about me is going to stop for a while," Funk declared wearily. "That was the best damn match any of you have ever seen. I did it without being cheap or using 'questionable' tactics. I am the best damn wrestler in the world. None of you can deny it."

"Was there ever a time you were worried about losing?" someone asked.

"In a match like that," Funk retorted, "you're always worried about losing. That guy was all over me, smothering some of my best moves. I

Terry hoists Lawler high into the air (above) as he prepares to backbreak the challenger. The two go tumbling over the ropes (right) and crash on the concrete floor. Funk is a real sitting duck (below) as Jerry comes off the top rope and is about to karate thrust him. Terry survived it—something few wrestlers have ever accomplished.

took a lot of risks out there. I did stuff only a champion has to do. If there wasn't a title on the line, chances are Lawler would have been the winner. No meaningless victory is worth what I did."



With that, Funk walked away. The NWA champion had proven himself worthy of the title. He had earned the rest he was wearily approaching.

As for Lawler, he came out like a man proud in defeat. He had nothing to be ashamed of. He had done his best against a man possessed. This was a classic match, one which would be remembered long after both men have retired. Lawler also proved he was one of the great ones.

"This time Funk was saved by the time limit," Lawler said with a smirk. "Next time I'll win. There's no way he can win. After all, I'm the best wrestler around. Funk is great and lucky. The odds are next time I'll be lucky . . . and champion."

Although the record books will only show this—"Funk vs. Lawler, Draw, One Hour Time Limit"—those who were there know that is not anywhere near the entire story.

It was a night Terry was in the toughest match of his career. And it was a night Terry Funk proved beyond a doubt he is indeed a champion. □

PAUL JONE

IT PAYS TO BE DIRTY

BAD GUYS CLASSIC #2

Originally presented in June 1979 *Sports Review Wrestling*

ALL ALONG, the road had beckoned Paul Jones. Every time he glanced down the path, he saw the fragments of traitorous rocks, the sheared remains of betrayals and the amputated limbs of friendship.

He refused to turn his back on the principles he believed in. Until he was driven by frustration and rage. Until he attacked former partner Rick Steamboat.

And he finally got what he wanted. A title shot against NWA champion Harley Race.

"See? I knew that if I turned rulebreaker I'd get my title shot," shouted Jones. "Race would never have wrestled me if I'd stayed a lame good guy. The way to the top is through doing what must be done. And I'm gonna do it time and again."

Unfortunately, Jones' contention is rooted in fact. Until this bout, Jones had been systematically excluded from NWA title consideration.

"Paul Jones, that S.O.B. I don't wrestle boring scientific wrestlers any more than I have to," Race said several months ago.

That attitude has been changed by subsequent events.

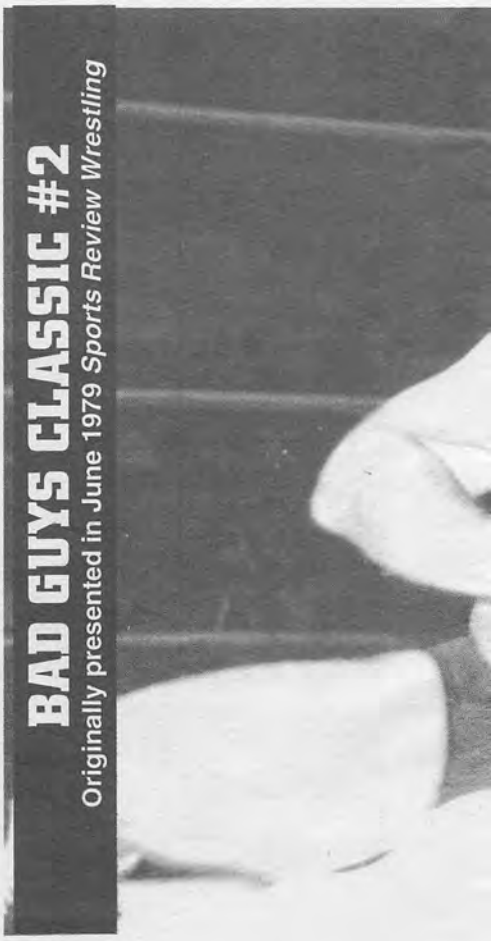
"Jones has finally seen the light," said Race before the match. "Before, I saw no reason to wrestle him. He'd only bring down the gate. Now the guy is exciting and interesting. Fans want to come out and boo."

Boo who?

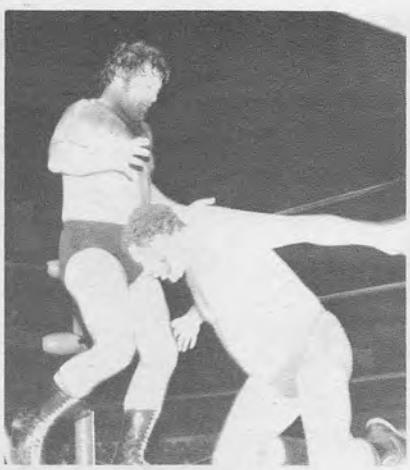
"Boo Jones, of course. And cheer me."

There lies an intriguing result. Not only has Jones' conversion earned him a title shot, it has also garnered him more contempt than even Harley Race.

"Why should I care who the fans boo? They can boo the lousy ushers for all I care," Jones said, shrugging. "All I care about is me. I'm finished worrying about fans and other wrestlers. They



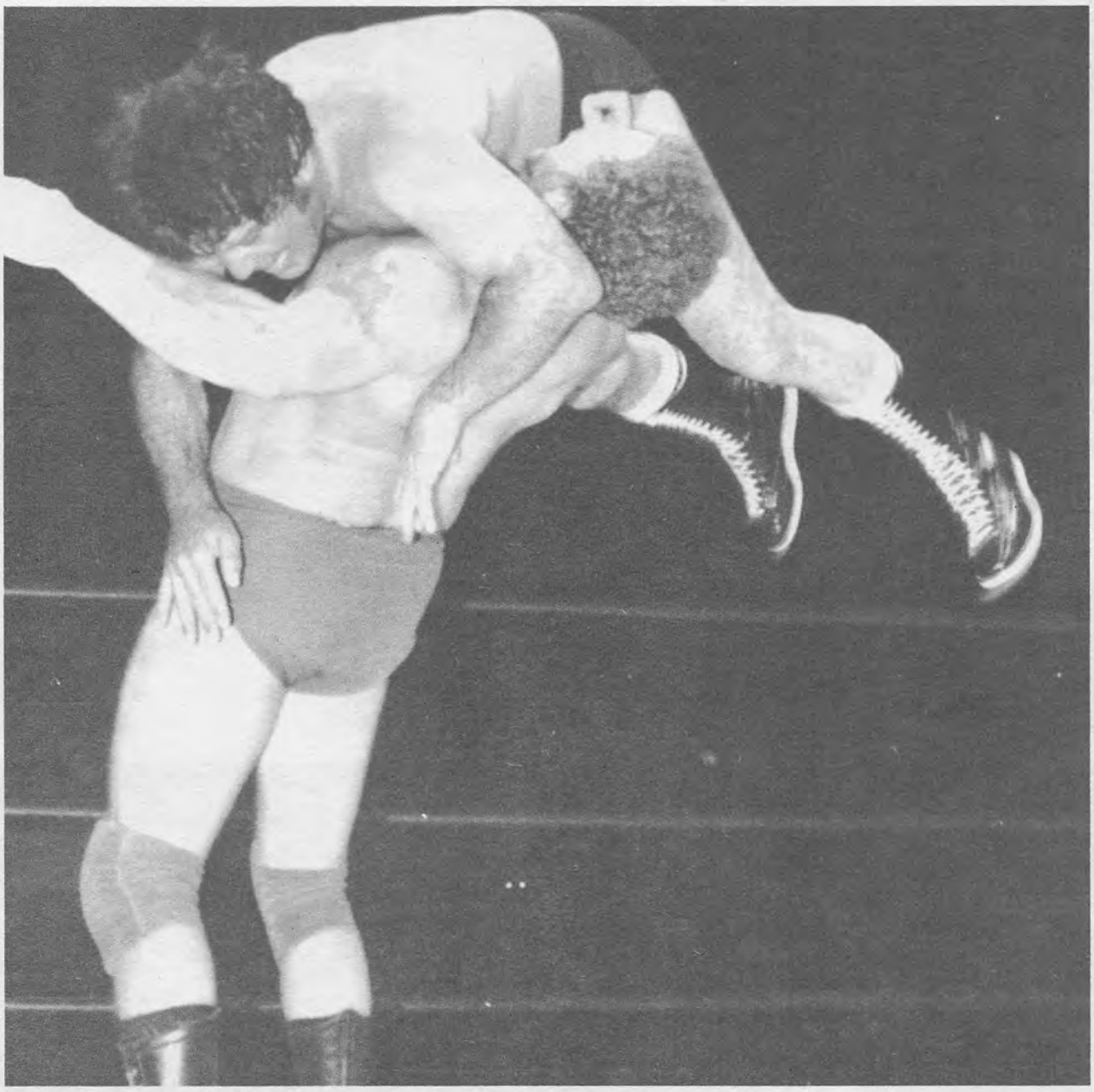
Right: Paul applies pressure to a side headlock, one of the few clean holds he used during the bout.



Left: Jones lies on the outside of the ring, battered and bruised. Above: Race rams his head into Jones' midsection. Right: After being caught in Race's suplex, Jones checks for broken bones.

ES PROVES

The conversion of former scientific wrestler Paul Jones to rulebreaking turned the wrestling community topsy-turvy. Scars and broken hearts remain, but a cocky and confident Jones shows no regrets on his way to the NWA title



An attempted bodyslam backfires as Race loses his balance and Jones comes smashing down on top of him. Harley was stunned and almost pinned.

don't give a damn about me, that's for sure.

"Hell, I got what I wanted. You think I would ever have gotten this shot if I'd stayed with frog-mouth Steamboat?

"No, I've been right all this time. Deep in my gut, I knew I had to break away from scientific wrestling. I knew as soon as I turned rulebreaker, the title shots would be pouring in.

"They have," Jones said casually, his voice unnaturally quiet. "I have more offers than I can shake a stick at, if that's your idea of a good time. I am in complete control of my own destiny.

"After all these years, my true skills emerge. Race is stupid, hell, they're all stupid. They think because I hung out with Steamboat and other nurds that I would be a pushover.

"Guess I showed him."

Indeed, Jones' talents have erupted since his conversion. Against Race, he displayed a ferocious intensity and brutal tenacity which had been lacking in his style.

"He's tough. Good thing he lost his temper and got disqualified," Race said, stroking his belt possessively.

Jones was disqualified, which leads to an ironic point in his match. Had Jones refrained from total rulebreaking and utilized many of his scientific maneuvers, he may have won the match.

As yet, Paul Jones is searching for the middle road. As yet, he is not a champion. □

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RACIST

(Continued from page 42)

to these damaging pieces of evidence:

1. As a two-time WWF World champion, he never wrestled a person of Hispanic origin and rarely defended his title against wrestlers of African-American heritage.

2. He has curtailed his schedule of matches in Asian countries. And when he does travel to the Orient, he insists on facing only wrestlers from Canada and the United States.

3. His fan club consists predominantly of white males.

4. He made up his mind about O.J. Simpson's guilt two days after the double-murders—before Simpson was ever charged with a crime—and hasn't once wavered.

Finally, asked after the Survivor Series what he thought about Backlund winning the World title, Hart said, "Better Backlund than Yokozuna or Kwang or someone like that. There's bad, and then there's *bad*."

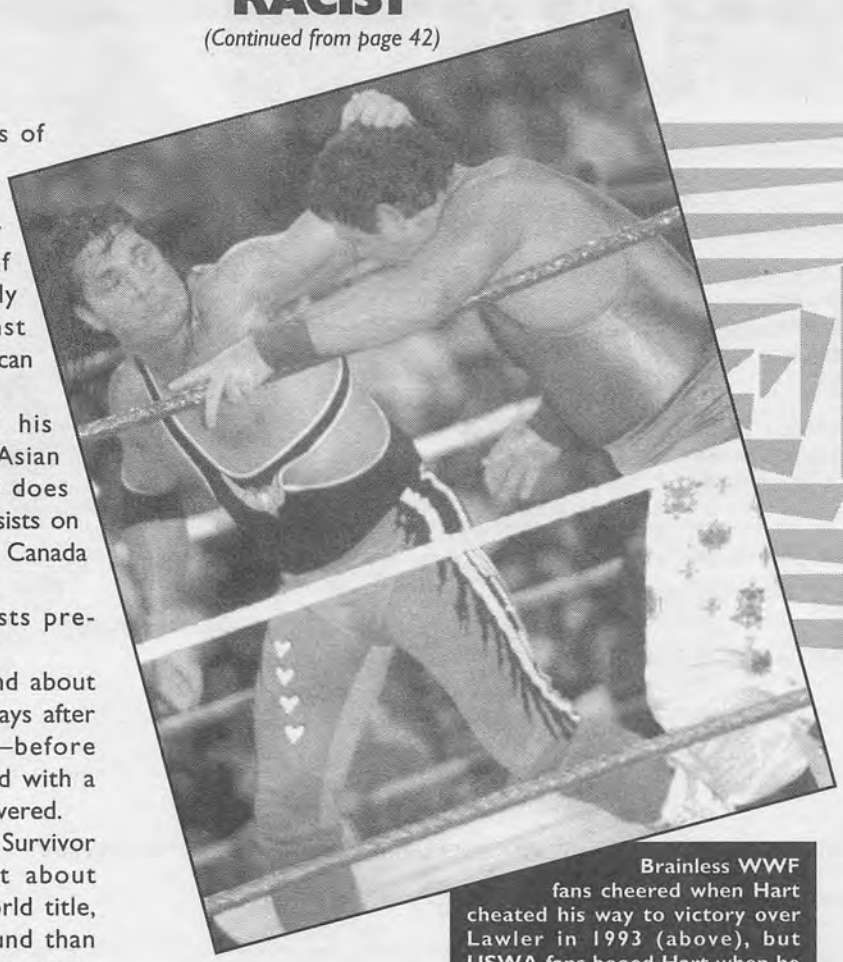
Hart's supporters argue that it's unfair to read too deeply into his statements and say he has never shown any signs of racism.

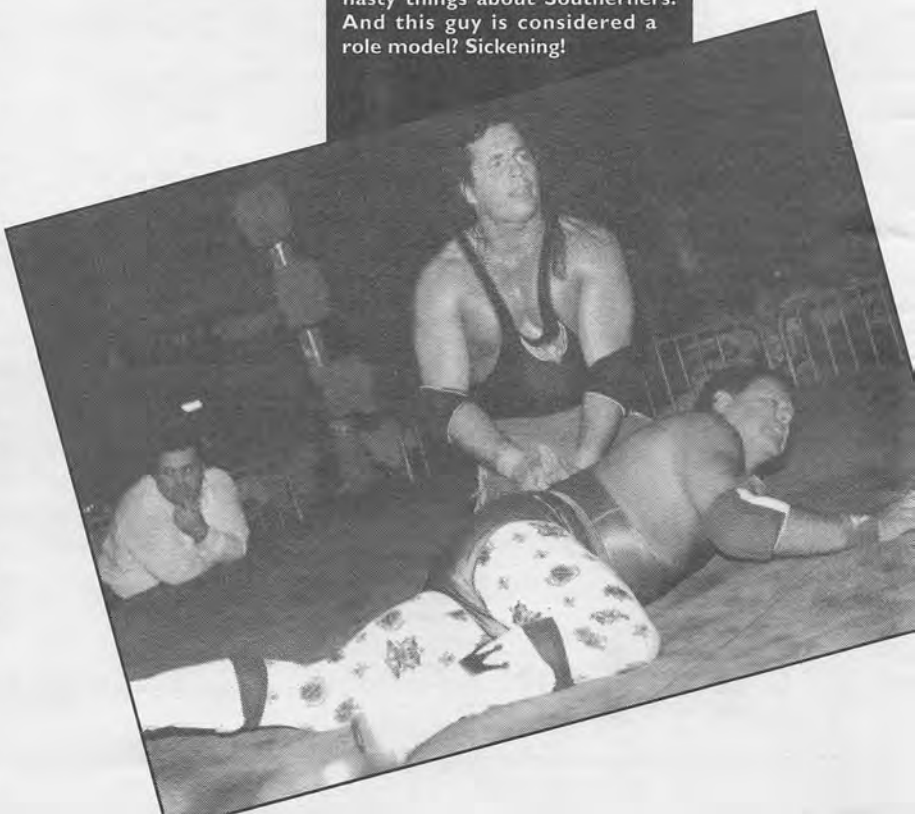
Lawler disagreed, saying, "If there's one thing I know, it's that Bret Hart is a racist and has always been a racist. Insecure people tend to be racists, and Bret Hart is the most racist person I know, other than his mother and father. Heck, that's where he got it from!"

Hart says that by agreeing to wrestle Hakushi, he proved he isn't a racist.

But that's like somebody saying, "I don't hate blacks. I know a lot of black people, and I get along just fine with them."

Bret Hart is a racist. No doubt about it.





Brainless WWF fans cheered when Hart cheated his way to victory over Lawler in 1993 (above), but USWA fans booed Hart when he took on "The King" in Memphis (below). That was after Hart said nasty things about Southerners. And this guy is considered a role model? Sickening!

This Month In...

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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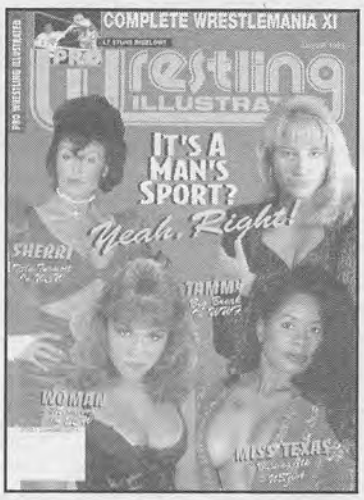

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RIC FLAIR

(Continued from page 62)

We liked Chris Candido as NWA champion, but we're sure we will like him a lot more in the WWF. With Tamara Murphy Fytch at his side, he can't go wrong.

He was constantly telling friends and classmates that when he grew up, he would be just like his hero, the "Nature Boy."

A fourth-year pro, LeVeque is far from being just like Ric, but he is making terrific progress. Once known as Terra Ryzing, the burly rulebreaker already is one of the most feared and respected young wrestlers in the world. Look for him to show up in the WWF soon. Trained for his pro career by Killer Kowalski, LeVeque has developed an inverted Indian deathlock that is nearly as effective a finisher as Flair's figure-four.

LeVeque has made it clear, however, that his days of worshipping Flair are over. "Flair was great in his time," he said, "but his time is past. He better make way for people like me!"

Is he dissing Flair? Sure he is. But

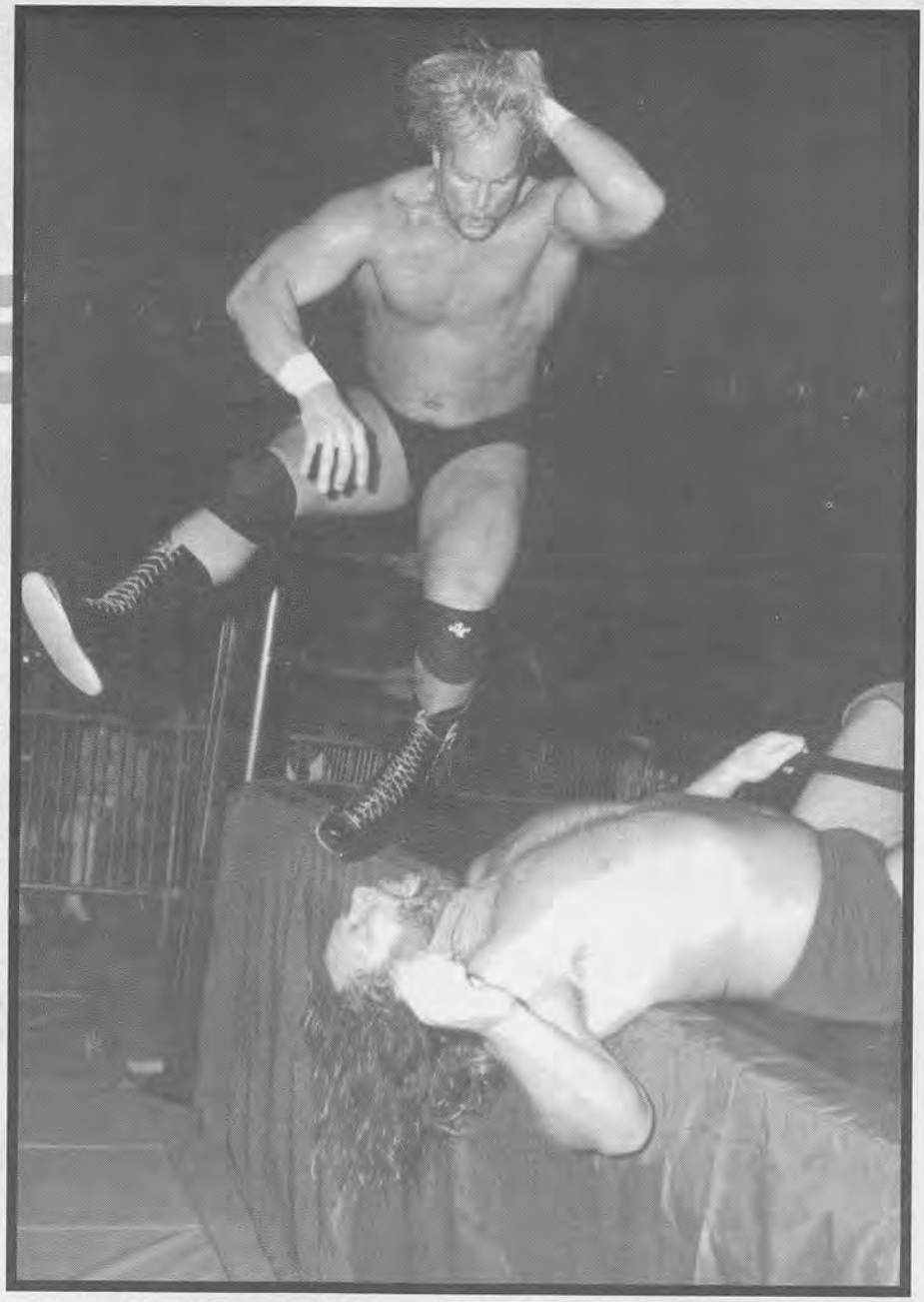
20 years ago, Flair might have said the same thing about some of *his* heroes.

Chris Candido. Unlike Douglas, Candido was a proud possessor of the NWA championship. When he won the belt in a tournament last November, he told everyone he was the logical successor to Lou Thesz, Buddy Rogers, Harley Race ... and Flair.

As we've said, we don't think much of the new NWA, but we respect Candido for his beliefs. We respect him, too, for his willingness to take risks. He is one of the few wrestlers with the courage to match Sabu move for move. He can, on occasion, also be as bloodthirsty as that maniacal protege of The Sheik.

Not too long ago, Candido was known as "Crybaby." He tossed aside that label the same way he tossed aside doubts about his ability. He gets better every day. He's only 5'8", but he's not afraid to take on opponents a lot bigger than him. More importantly, he has heart, an attribute that has taken him far in his five years as a pro.

Candido, who lost the NWA title to Dan Severn in February, did not rule the same NWA Flair did, but he was the NWA champion nevertheless. Now he's headed to the WWF with his lovely manager, Tamara Murphy Fytch. He's gonna be a star.



As soon as Steve Austin wins his first world title, the comparisons to Ric Flair will really start to come. Hulk Hogan has shown rare intelligence in ducking "Stunning" Steve.

Steve Austin. If there is one man in the sport who may truly be called the next Flair, it is Austin. He has the style, the talent, the attitude, and he has already won a lot of major titles. All except the one that matters the most.

In his quest for the WCW World belt, Austin has been ripped off so many times. Nevertheless, he's had plenty of opportunities, and it nags him that he has yet to win a world championship. He isn't one to make excuses.

Rick Steamboat, who's wrong most of the time, was right when he said last year that Austin's potential is limitless. We aren't giving up on Austin. No one should. He expects to be a major player well into the 21st century. It would be no surprise if he one day surpasses Flair's accomplishments.

As it stands now, Austin could win the World belt at any time, if only Lord Hogan would be so kind as to give him a title shot. He is well-equipped to exploit Hogan's many weaknesses. When Austin finally does reach the top, Flair may stand down and never return.

Those are our choices. When Flair reads them, he'll probably have a good laugh.

At least we hope he does.

Rulebreaker

FRITZ VON ERICH

GEORGE STEELE

IVAN KOLOFF

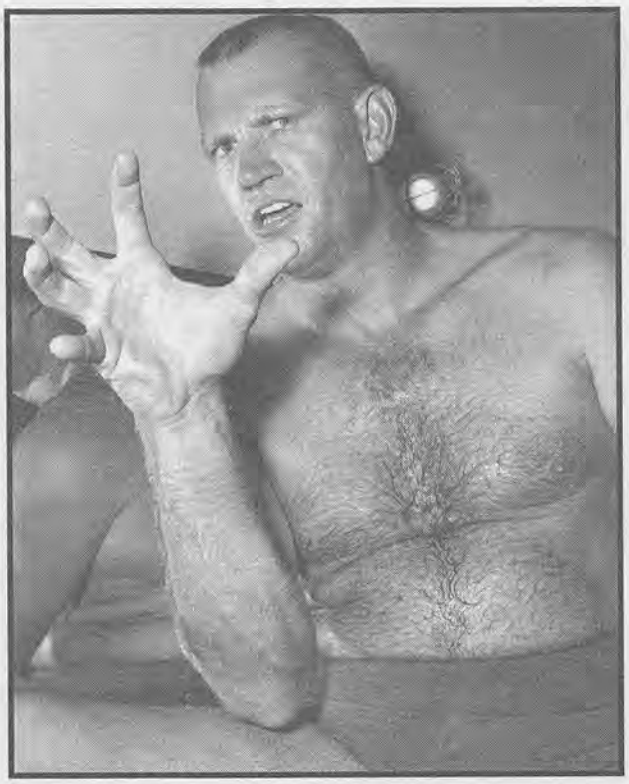
KILLER KOWALSKI

HARLEY RACE

THE SHEIK

FRED BLASSIE

BRUISER BRODY

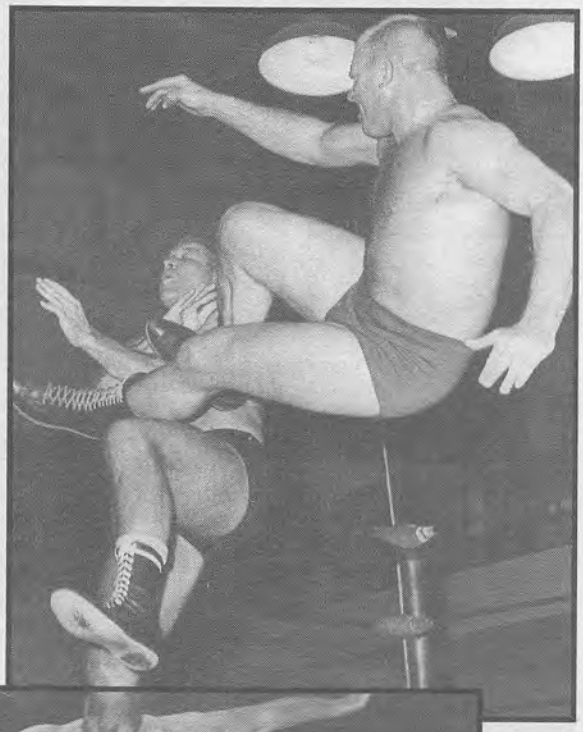


FRITZ VON ERICH was one of the most terrifying wrestlers in history ... Though he had a tremendous career in his own right, he is probably best-known by younger fans as the patriarch of the popular Von Erich dynasty ... Before becoming involved in wrestling, Fritz played football and ran track in high school and was awarded an athletic scholarship to Southern Methodist University ... Set several track and field records, including a discus record that stood until his son Kerry shattered it *("Only another Von Erich could shatter my record!")* ... Also played professional football in the early-'50s ... While at SMU, he met his wife, Doris, who bore him six sons, five of whom went on to become popular wrestlers ... Was first introduced to professional wrestling by Doc Sarpolis and the legendary Ed "Strangler" Lewis, who trained him for his pro debut ... The 6'5", 270-pound Texas native began wrestling under his given name, Jack Adkinson, but was only marginally successful ... Once he began to use the moniker Fritz Von Erich, he turned himself into one of the most feared wrestlers of his time ... As Von Erich, he embraced Nazism for a while and began his reign of terror ... Von Erich developed and soon unleashed his "iron claw" on the wrestling world, striking fear into the hearts of both opponents and fans alike. The hold is applied on the skull of an opponent, with intense pressure placed on the temple area *("After just a few seconds, it is impossible for anyone to break it!")* ... The "iron claw" quickly became one of the most devastating finishing

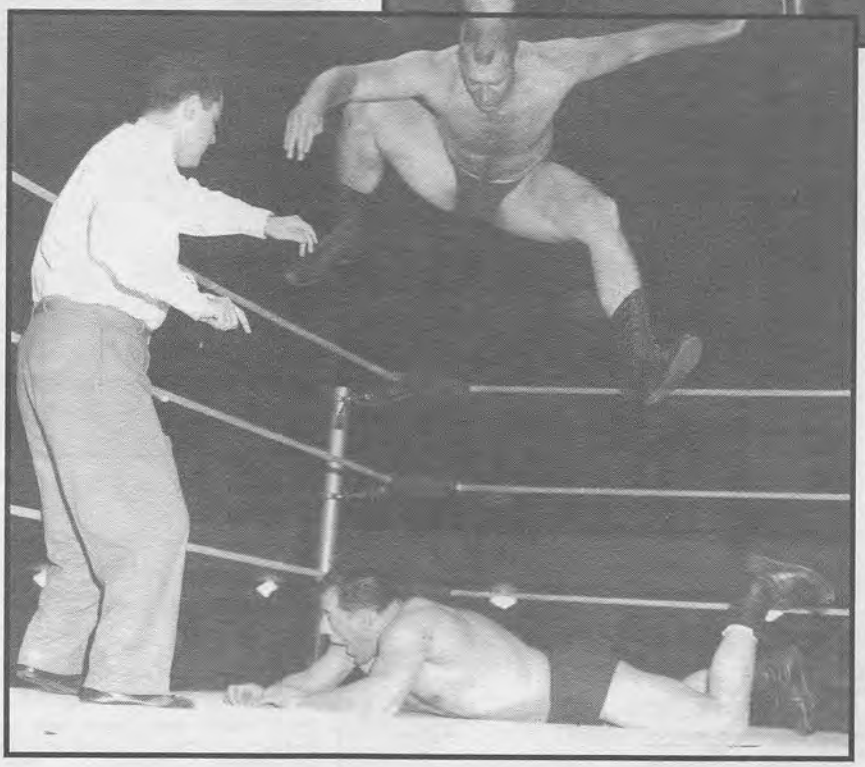
Hall of Fame

Each issue, WRESTLING BAD GUYS will add another individual's name to our no-nonsense roll call of honor!

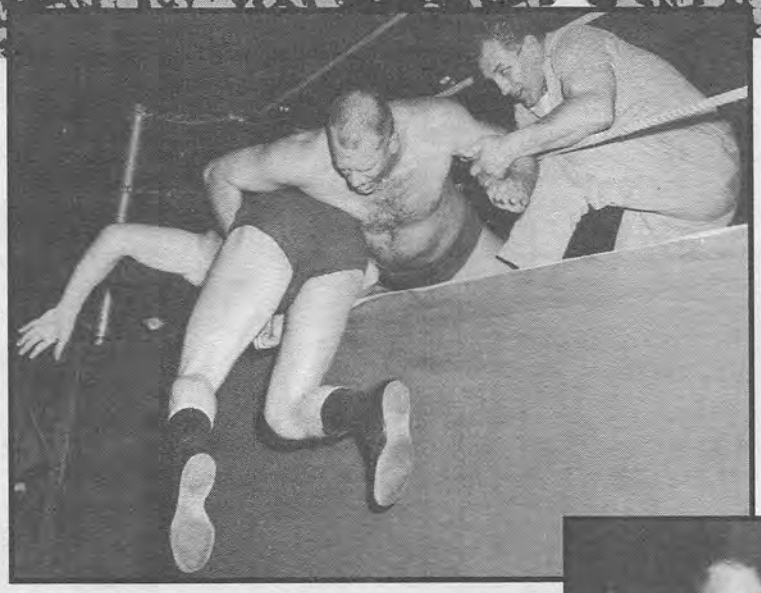
▶ Fritz may have been known as a sadistic madman for much of his career, but that didn't mean he wasn't agile and quick. He threw some mean dropkicks against the worthless and weak Wilbur Snyder.



▲ Fritz Von Erich was so out-of-control early in his career that few wrestlers knew how to handle him. Promoters often called in the police to bring him under control!

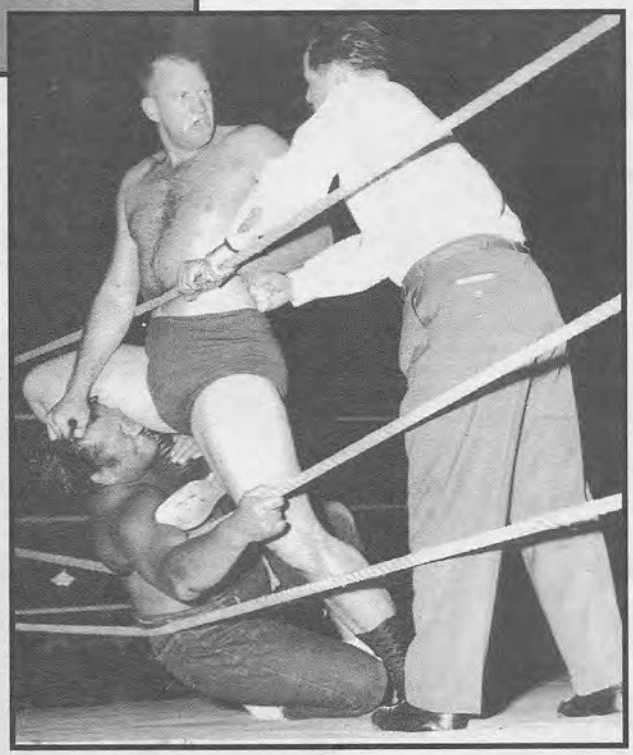


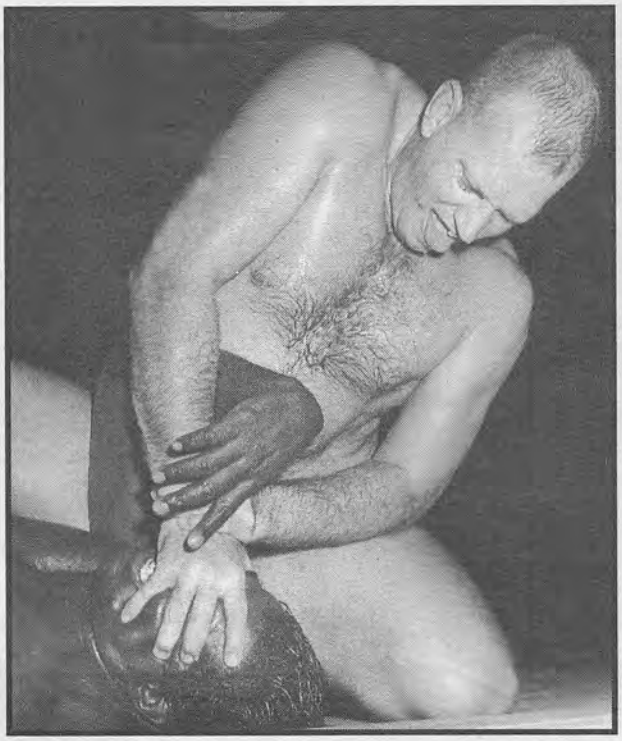
▶Note the look of sheer terror on the face of Bobby Brown as Fritz comes crashing down on him. Poor Bobby never knew what hit him!



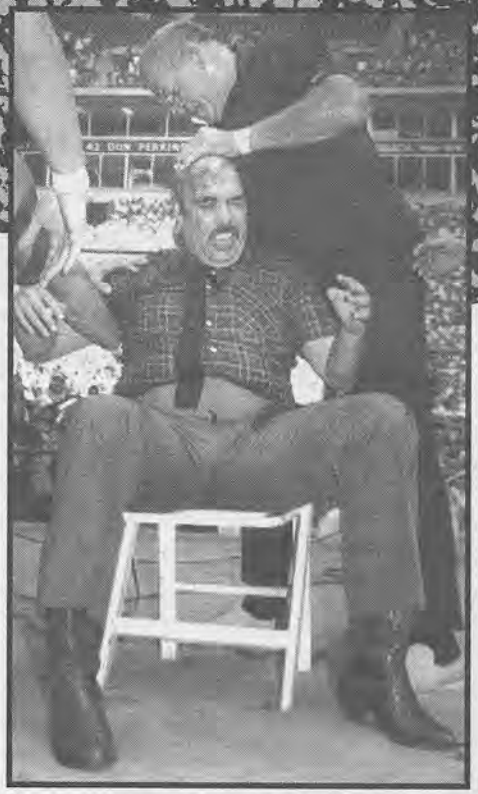
▲ Many a pathetic fan favorite tried to leave the ring in the middle of a match with Von Erich. They feared for their lives! Fritz always brought them back into the ring and beat on them some more!

▼ Yukon Eric was one of Fritz's favorite opponents to tear apart during the 1960s. Any referee who tried to stop him was risking serious injury himself.





◀ No one—we repeat, *no one!*— had a more devastating clawhold than Fritz Von Erich. He invented the submission hold and mastered it. Bobo Brazil had a headache for weeks after this match!



▲ **Even after he retired, Fritz caused problems for men like Gary Hart. We're guessing he enjoyed shaving the manager's head in 1985. Sadly, however, Von Erich was a fan favorite at this point.**

holds in the sport; many wrestlers used their own versions of the hold, but Fritz always maintained his was the best ... Started doing exercises to strengthen his right hand even more *("I could bend silver dollars and pop the caps off of bottles without even trying!")* ... Claimed he perfected the claw while in judo school in Japan; later, he took out an insurance policy on his hand with Lloyd's of London ... Feuded with Terry and Dory Funk Jr. over the NWA World belt in the early-1970s ... Also feuded with Pepper Gomez, the master of the stomach claw, in a battle of clawholds for the Texas belt ... Always took pride in the fact that he took on anyone who challenged him, no matter how big or strong they were ... Had some incredibly violent matches with Abdullah the Butcher, Bobo Brazil, Shohei "Giant" Baba, and others ... Wrestled all over the United States and in several foreign countries, including Canada, where he teamed with equally notorious and sadistic Karl Von Shober in the Calgary area *("My name would evoke great fear in any country in the world")*... Held numerous singles and tag team titles throughout North America during his career ... On July 31, 1962, defeated Verne Gagne for the Omaha heavyweight title in Omaha, Nebraska. This was as close as he would get to a world title, as the Omaha championship eventually became the AWA World title ... Defeated Gagne for the same title a year later ... Also held several titles during the late-1950s, including the Brass Knuckles title he won from legendary madman "Wild" Bull Curry in a frantic match in Dallas ... During the mid-1960s, settled down his native Texas and began wrestling chiefly for World Class Championship Wrestling, an organization with which the name Von Erich would eventually become synonymous ... On June 6, 1966, defeated Brute Bernard for the World Class Championship Wrestling American championship, a title Fritz would hold an unprecedented 11 times during the next 16 years ... Also won WCCW American tag team titles with three different partners: Waldo Von Erich, Billy Red Lyons, and Grizzly Smith *("I just needed someone ... anyone ... to stand in the corner with me, and we'd win the belts, guaranteed!")* ... Longtime rival, manager Gary Hart, followed Von Erich to the Dallas area and continued to be a constant threat to Fritz and, eventually, his sons ... Continued to wrestle in World Class for most of the remainder of his career, devoting his time to training and developing his sons' careers *("I instilled all of my ring knowledge into their heads and made them champions")* ... Briefly served as president of the National Wrestling Alliance during the mid-1970s ... Retired after a successful defense of the American title for the last time against King Kong Bundy in 1982, but came back for the May 6, 1984, "Parade Of Champions" at Texas Stadium ... Teamed with sons Kevin and Mike to defeat The Fabulous Freebirds for the World Class six-man title ... On the same card, Kerry defeated Ric Flair for the NWA World title *("It was the proudest day of my life")* ... Tragedy ultimately tore apart the Von Erich family, as five of his sons died ... Only Kevin is still living, and he still wrestles from time to time ... In spite of the incredible adversity Fritz has faced in his personal life, he will always be remembered as one of the most dangerous wrestlers in history ... He may have gone soft late in his career when he helped his fan-pandering sons, but there's no denying that he accomplished a lot as a rulebreaker during his prime and deserves to be inducted into our Hall of Fame.

My Say

By Stan Hansen

In this special feature, a prominent rulebreaker of the day is afforded that rarest of opportunities: a chance to speak directly to the wrestling public without fear of reprisal or censorship.
This is vital reading for those wishing to gain wisdom from the sport's greatest minds

I DIDN'T WANT to do this. If you ask me, the biggest waste of time is talking to reporters. The second biggest waste of time has to be writing their stories for them. The only reason I agreed to do it was because Eddie Ellner begged me for about an hour, long-distance to Japan, and told me I'm the toughest man in wrestling. I knew that already, but I didn't mind hearing it another couple hundred times.

The fact is that I'm not only the toughest man in wrestling, I'm the greatest, and anybody who wants to challenge that—and I'm talking about all you "Hulkamaniacs" out there—had better know that not only was I the AWA World champion back in 1985 and 1986, I was the greatest AWA champ *ever*. I was also an NWA World tag team champion, and I've now won four—count 'em, four!—Triple Crown Championships in Japan.

For those of you who are too stupid to pay attention to anything that happens outside the 50 states, that's the All-Japan International, the All-Japan United National, and the Pacific Federation titles, all under one roof. Some of you probably couldn't even find Japan on a map.

Four Triple Crowns. That's 12 titles, and even Hogan and Flair can't equal that. Nobody can, not even my buddy "Dr. Death" Steve Williams, and he's the only one who could come close if he wanted to.

Now, you might think it gets a little boring kicking the butts of all these little Japanese guys all the time, but most of them aren't so little, and a lot of them have more talent than any wrestler I've ever faced in the States. The fact is that I like it here in Japan. In fact, I'm having the time of my life, even if it is a little far from Borger, Texas, and a little—make that a lot—different.

I don't see myself going back to the U.S. of A. anytime soon, except for maybe an occasional visit just to remind everyone who's boss. "The Lariat" is alive and well in Tokyo. I'm treated like a legend here. That's because I *am* one.

The only thing I don't like about being in Japan is that there's a whole new bunch of youngsters in America growing up right now who don't know much about Stan Hansen, other than what Eddie Ellner and a few other people tell them. All these people think they know what tough is. I read in the magazines about this federation called Extreme Championship Wrestling, where they have all these specialty matches and supposedly there are a lot of tough guys, like Terry Funk (who I know very well, by the way), that freak Sabu, Shane Douglas, a giant named 911, and some joker named Tommy Dreamer.

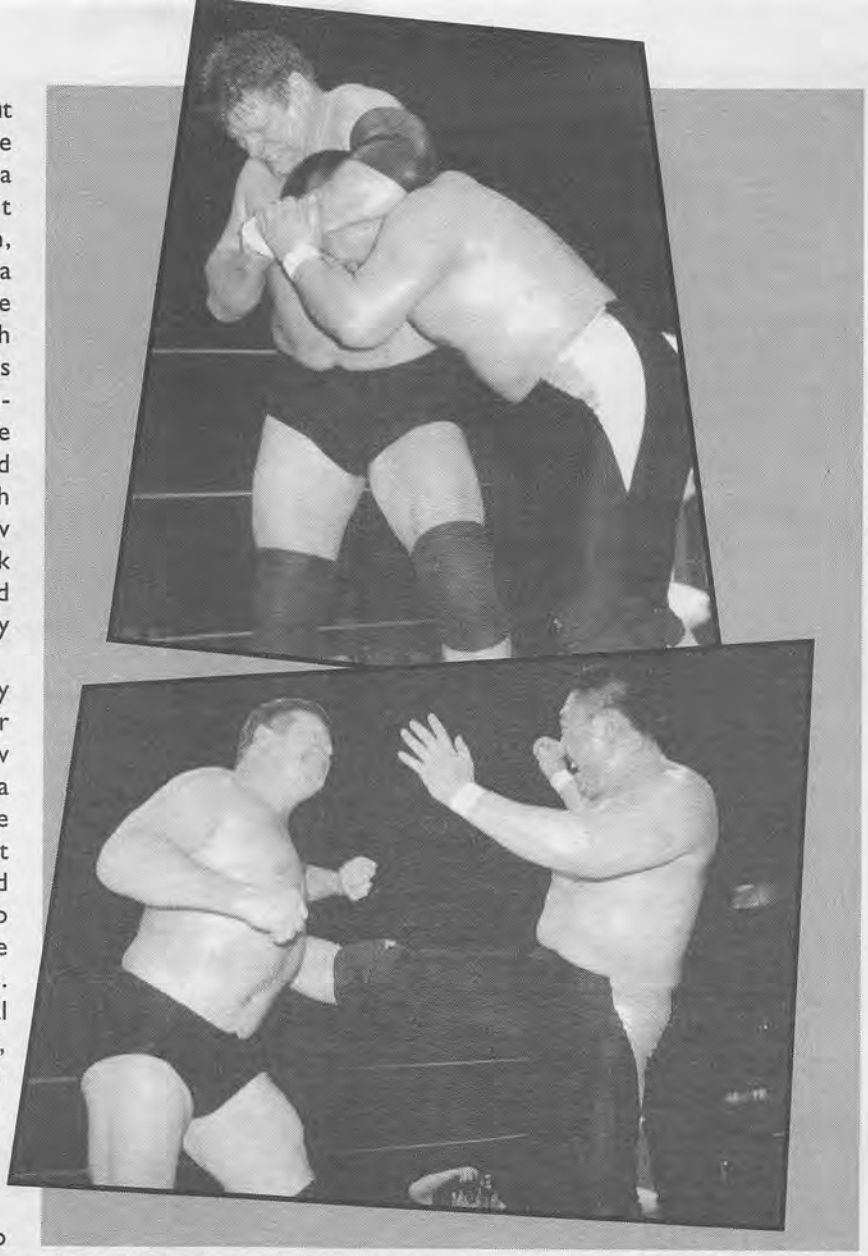
Well, I'm not impressed by specialty matches or chairs or moonsaults. I was in ECW for a few days a while back, and there wasn't a single guy there who could take me in a fight. The only thing that impresses me is hand-to-hand combat between two men who know that their only weapons are their bare hands and their brains. Nothing else matters. There's real tough, and then there's fake tough, and in my opinion, fake tough means resorting to foreign objects and cheating. I don't cheat. I simply show no mercy.

Let me personally invite each and every ECW wrestler to Japan to wrestle me anytime, in any place, in a traditional one-on-one match with no stupid stipulations. The problem with American wrestling is that you fans have been conditioned to believe that any time somebody bleeds a little from their pinky or dislocates a shoulder, they've just done something tough. You see chairs and immediately think "real men."

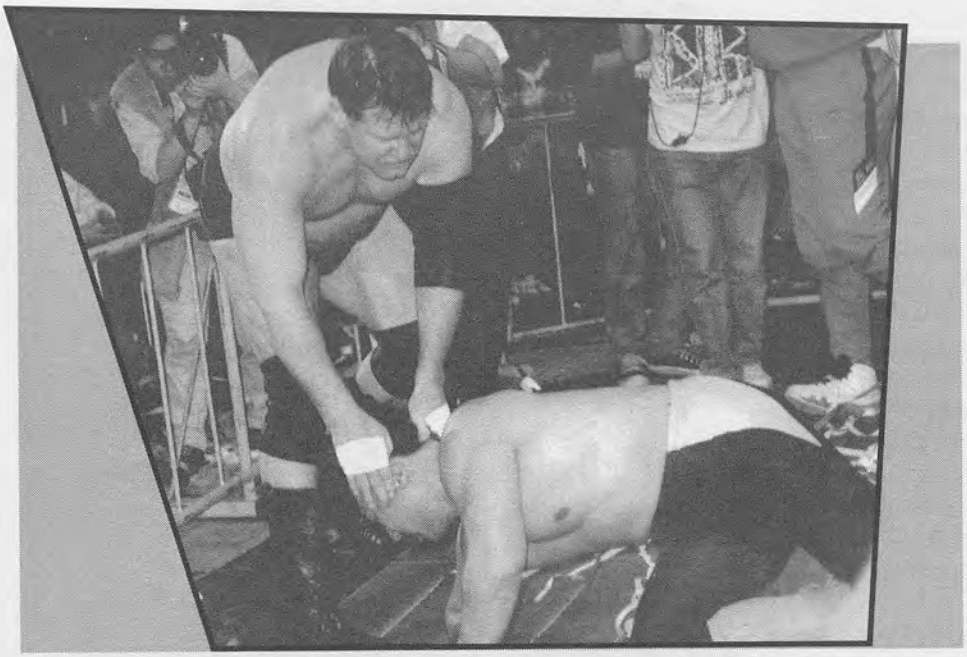
I heard about Blacktop Bully and Dustin Rhodes wrestling in the back of a truck moving at 55 miles an hour or something. Big deal! I've had brawls in the backs of pickups with the sides down going 80 miles an hour through winding highway—without hay to cushion the fall! I've fallen off trucks and gotten right back up again. Americans are forgetting what tough is all about.

Sometimes I have to remind these Japanese people that nobody's ever gotten anywhere by just laying back and waiting for something to come to them. The time has long passed when Stan Hansen could get by in Japan just because he's an American wrestler who's done something. The people here know all about my reputation, because I'm building on it every day.

Like I said, there are those four Triple Crown championships. People were telling me, "Stan, that Toshiaki Kawada is one of the best wrestlers in the world. No way an



I respect a guy like Toshiaki Kawada, but I took it easy on him in the beginning. I put him in a headlock (top) for a while to wear him down. Sure, he got in a couple of those kicks of his (above), but I can take it as well as I can dish it out.

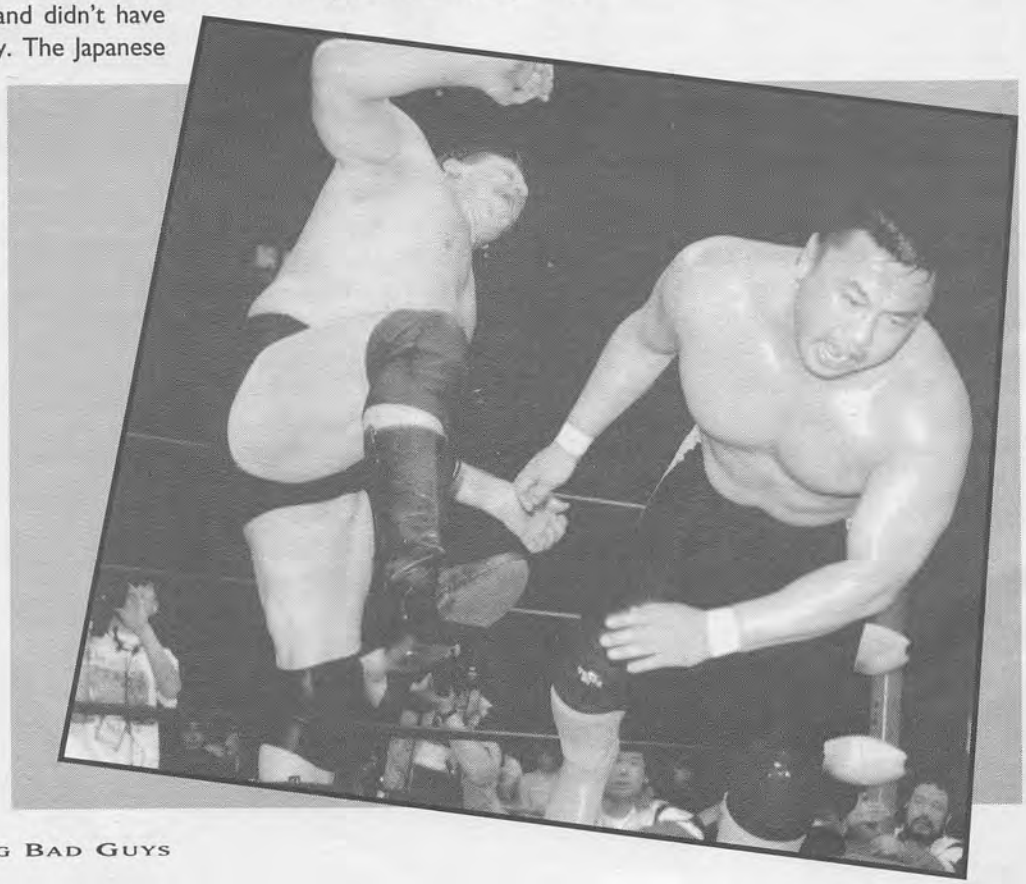


It's a big, big mistake to try to fight me outside the ring. I guess Kawada didn't know that before our match. He knows it now. By now, everyone in Japan knows how tough I am.

American like you can beat him." Well, that got my blood boiling to the point that when Kawada stepped into the ring, he looked into my eyes and knew he didn't have a chance. "The Lariat" lives and Kawada knows it, because he felt it, and he's probably still feeling it as I write this and you read it.

The way I see things, there are a lot of American wrestlers who came over here to Japan and didn't have the right stuff to stay. The Japanese wrestle a little differently than Americans, and maybe that intimidated them. Not me. People told me I'd have to change to deal with Japanese wrestlers, but I told them they were full of crap. Stan Hansen changes for nobody, and tough is tough no matter where you go.

I'm still the toughest man in the world, and I prove it every day.



By this time, Kawada knew he was all but finished ... and the Triple Crown would be mine again. All it took was one more of my famous lariats and the man was history.

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2881	Butthole Surfers	3673	Foreigner	6382	Metallica	7832	Rod Stewart	6341	Vince Neil
9433	Catherine Wheel	4362	Genesis	2651	Michael Bolton	7651	Rolling Stones	8461	Violent Femmes
9431	Cheryl Wheeler	8462	George Thorogood	6431	Midnight Oil	7652	Rollins Band	9271	W.A.S.P.
2461	Cinderella	4461	Gin Blossoms	6443	Mighty M. Bosstones	7871	Rush	9272	Warrant
2656	Collective Soul	4721	Grateful Dead	6463	Ministry	7223	Sacred Reich	9441	White Zombie
2663	Concrete Blonde	4731	Great White	6252	Mitch Malloy	7261	Santana	9463	The Who
2683	Counting Crows	4737	Green Day	6672	Morrissey	7374	Sepultura	9454	Wilson Phillips
2682	Coverdale/Page	4735	Green Jelly	6682	Motley Crue	6262	Sinead O'Connor	9671	World Party
2693	Cowboy Junkies	4861	Guns N' Roses	6681	Motorhead	7541	Skid Row	9371	Yes
2726	Cracker	4274	Hardline	6721	Mr. Big	7523	Slaughter	6251	YngwieMalmsteen
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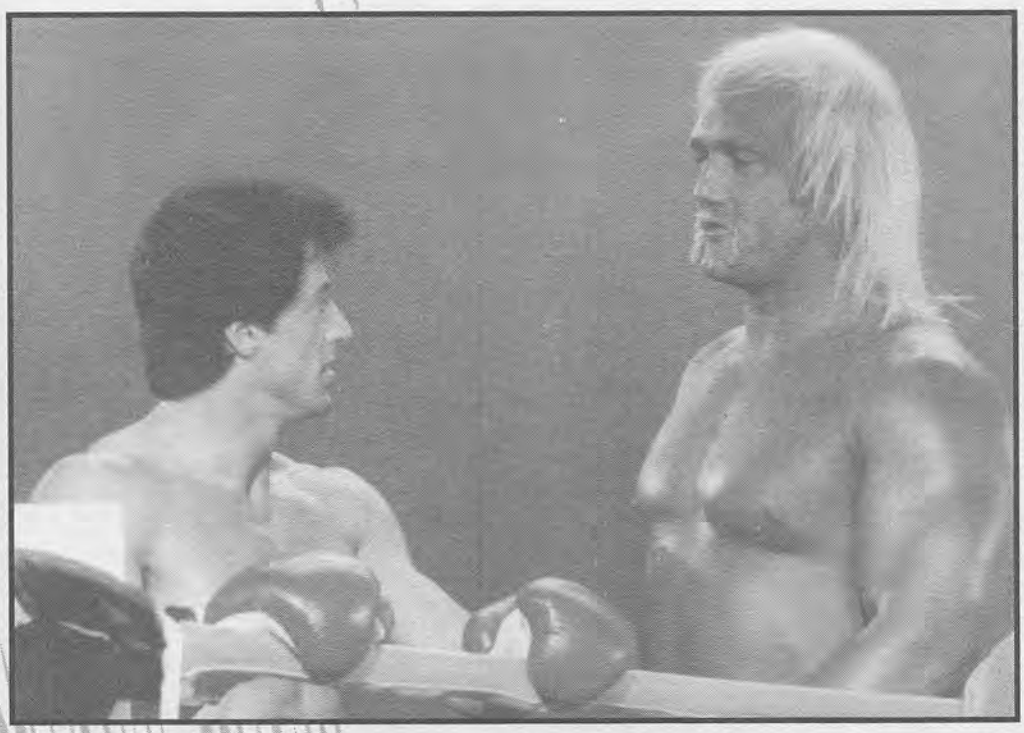
Talkin' Trash

By Donna Garcia-Fromme



You don't see Hulk Hogan hanging out on movie sets with Sly Stallone anymore, do ya? The balding "Hulkster," from what I hear, would be lucky to get bit parts in movies these days.

he hottest gossip? The inside scoop? Donna Garcia-Fromme has it all—and more!

HERE I AM, back from the Academy Awards, where I saw lots of gorgeous men and plenty of pretty women, but not a single professional wrestler in the crowd. The closest I came was **Sylvester Stallone**, who was wearing a beautiful suit and a redhead, but the only thing he ever did was get tossed around by **Hulk Hogan** in *Rocky III*. I'm sure you'll agree that doesn't count.

But I did manage to run into a few producers and directors in the partying Monday-night crowd, and one of them—I'm not naming names or studios—asked me where I thought Hogan would be in a few months.

"I don't know where he's going," the insider told me, "but I don't see him wrestling past this July or August. He's had his agent poking around Hollywood, and I think he's ready to make another break from wrestling. From what I hear, every so often, Hogan gets the itch to make a movie. Then when he makes a movie, he gets the itch to wrestle again.

"The problem is that no studio wants him, because he can't make a commitment. You can't just keep on fading in and out of the spotlight. You have to make a choice."

The rumor mill, however, has the contracts getting smaller and smaller for Hogan, and the parts getting less and less important. It seems like a fair bet that Hogan will never attend the Academy Awards, no less be nominated for one, and the Hollywood money is less convinced than ever that Hogan's name has box office power. That's why we might see Hogan in co-starring or supporting roles in the near future, if his giant-sized ego can stand the snub.

Oh, yes, I knew you'd ask. I had a great time, dressed in a black Versace dress. My date, if you want to call him that, slummed out in Armani. Initials E.E.

Hey, a girl has to wag some

tongues once in a while, don't you think?

* * *

Jake Roberts is a big, tough macho man, and he'd like nothing better than for everyone to think he voluntarily made the decision to retire from wrestling. Well, my people tell me that his beautiful wife, **Cheryl**, laid down the law and told "The Snake," "It's either me or wrestling. You can't have both." Apparently, Ms. Roberts was getting tired of having the responsibility of running the whole family. From what I'm told, she gave up a potentially lucrative modeling career so that she could be Mrs. Jake Roberts. Anybody who has seen her in person knows this could be true.

Jake says he found God, but if you ask me, Cheryl showed him the meaning of religion and basically busted him. I don't know what Jake's going to do for a living now, but you have to think that a man who had his career has a pretty nice little nest egg tucked away.

Unless Cheryl spent it already, although people tell me she's not that kind of lady.

Anyway, for whatever reason it was, enjoy your retirement, Jake. I definitely won't miss those snakes of yours.

* * *

So **Dustin Rhodes** says to **Dusty Rhodes**, "Daddy, I'm going to wrestle **Blacktop Bully** in the back of a truck going 55 miles per hour through Tupelo, Mississippi."

And Dusty says to his son, "It's your career. Do whatever you want with it."

Now that we're getting deeper into 1995, Dusty is getting more and more fed up with Dustin's career-gone-bust and has basically given up on trying to motivate him. If Dustin wants to wrestle Blacktop Bully in a match that, figuratively speaking, must be 100 miles away from a world title shot, there's nothing Dusty can do about it. Dusty knows that.

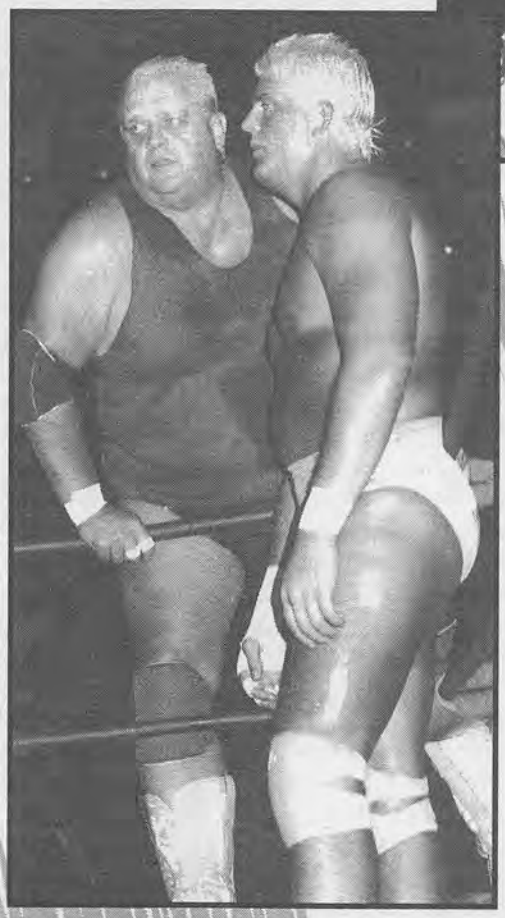
"It frustrates him, but you can't run somebody's life for him," said a source close to the Rhodes family. "Besides, Dusty realizes that he got sidetracked and made his share of mistakes in his career. I guess Dusty figures that Dustin is young and there's still time. Who knows, maybe Dustin will eventually win three world titles."

Maybe, but I wouldn't bet on it. Not even with your money.

* * *

You'd be hard-pressed to find one single man in the WWF—rulebreaker or fan favorite—who hasn't tried a line on **Tamara Murphy Fytch** since she arrived in the federation. Fytch flashed that shot of herself in a bikini and it has been open season on the woman

Can you believe this slithering "Snake" of a rulebreaker has found God and retired? I can't. I think Jake Roberts fears his wife more than he fears the good Lord.



Dusty and Dustin Rhodes aren't getting along again. Seems Dusty isn't happy with the direction his son's career is taking. If I wanted advice, Dusty Rhodes isn't the man I'd be talking to.

ever since. She could be the hottest woman the WWF has ever seen, and that includes the split-second **Missy Hyatt** spent in the federation a few years ago.

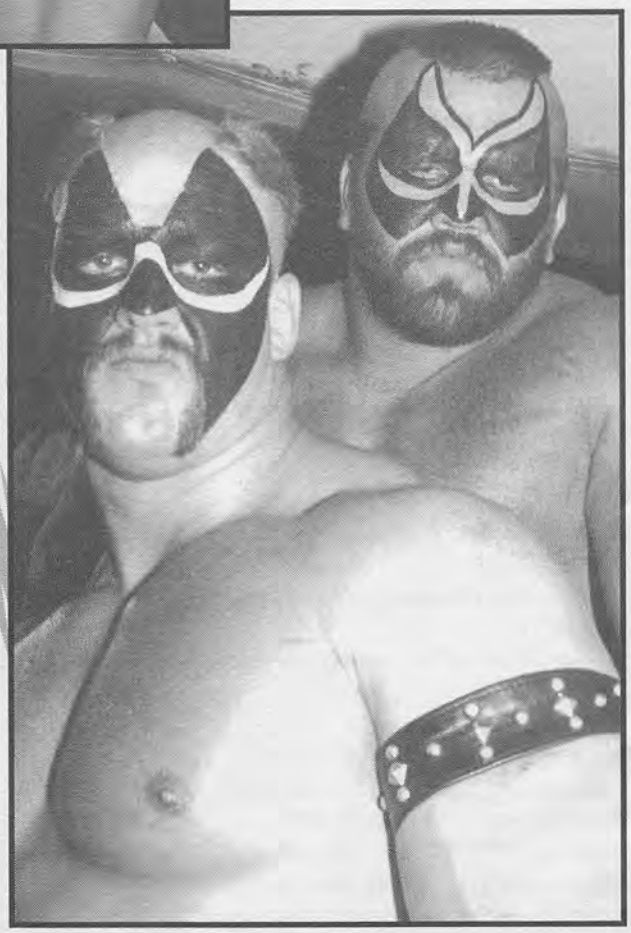
Men have always been intoxicated by beauty and power, and Ms. Fytch has both. All you have to do is look at what she did for **Chris Candido** and **Brian Lee** and you know that. Now a lot of very powerful men are having a hard time keeping their minds on business.

* * *

The Road Warriors keep saying they'll return to North America when they're good and ready. When will that be? When some wise promoter comes up with a seven-figure contract that allows **Hawk** and **Animal** to call their own shots. I hear they'll be wreaking havoc in WCW by mid-summer ... Up until the very last minute, **Lawrence Taylor** considered backing out of his match with **Bam Bam Bigelow** at WrestleMania XI. Then LT realized he had already been fired by TNT for taking the match (TNT spokesmen say otherwise, but I don't believe them), so he might as well go through with it ... People in Memphis think **Jerry Lawler** is pushing the limits of his popularity and might wind up as the most hated man in the USWA by the end of the year. Personally, I don't see how "The King" could get his Memphis subjects to turn against him, but I've also heard that Lawler has something hot and juicy up his sleeve. Translation: He doesn't *want* to be loved.

Where else are you going to get this kind of hot gossip? Remember, the rumor mill never closes ... and I've got the key!

Memo to Tamara Murphy Fytch: When you start showing off photos like this one, you have to expect to be hit on by a few men. Just enjoy it, honey!



Memo to all WCW tag teams: Prepare to be destroyed by the Road Warriors. Hawk and Animal are coming to an arena near you this summer. Get out while you still can!

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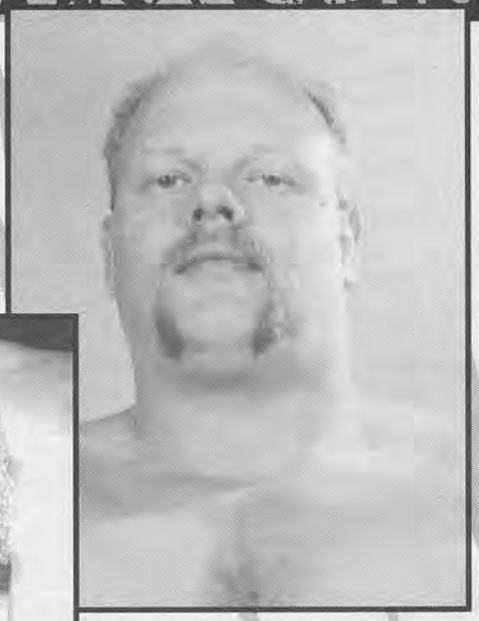
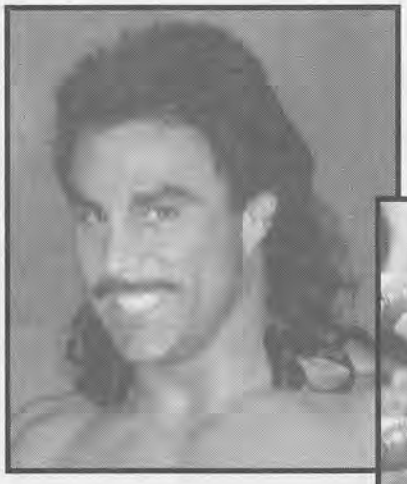
Wimps &



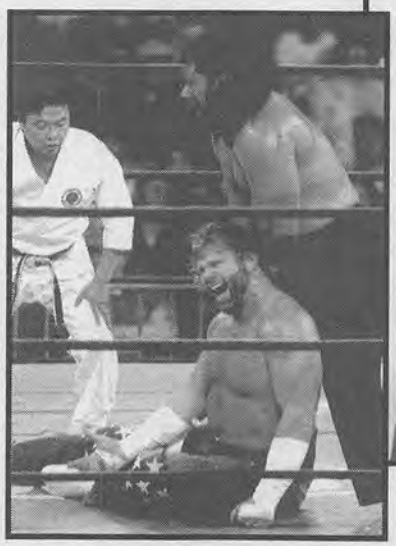
TONY ANTHONY IS A WIMP. We still find it hard to believe this hillbilly has won three Smoky Mountain titles. He is a man with *no* wrestling skills and no brains. If he had any brains, he'd be going after the equally dreadful current SMW champ, Bobby Blaze. But no ... he's more interested in sneak-attacking Buddy Landell, an honorable man who just came to SMW in hopes of finding some good, clean, fair competition. The "Dirty White Boy" doesn't wrestle Landell, either—he tries to inflict serious injury, sometimes by smothering him with a plastic bag. Only a true wimp would get away with such abominable behavior.



JOHNNY B. BADD IS A WIMP. You'd think a former boxer would be at least a little tough, but Badd isn't like most pugilists. He's a true coward. He puts on those boxing gloves of his because he knows he can't beat Arn Anderson man-to-man. Once he has to actually *wrestle* "The Enforcer," he's lost. Arn beats him every time. It's embarrassing to watch him struggle. But he gets the mindless fans excited when he wears those gloves into the ring. He was by far the least talented WCW TV champ ever. Why he continues to get shots at Arn's belt is beyond us. He's an embarrassment to boxers and wrestlers everywhere.

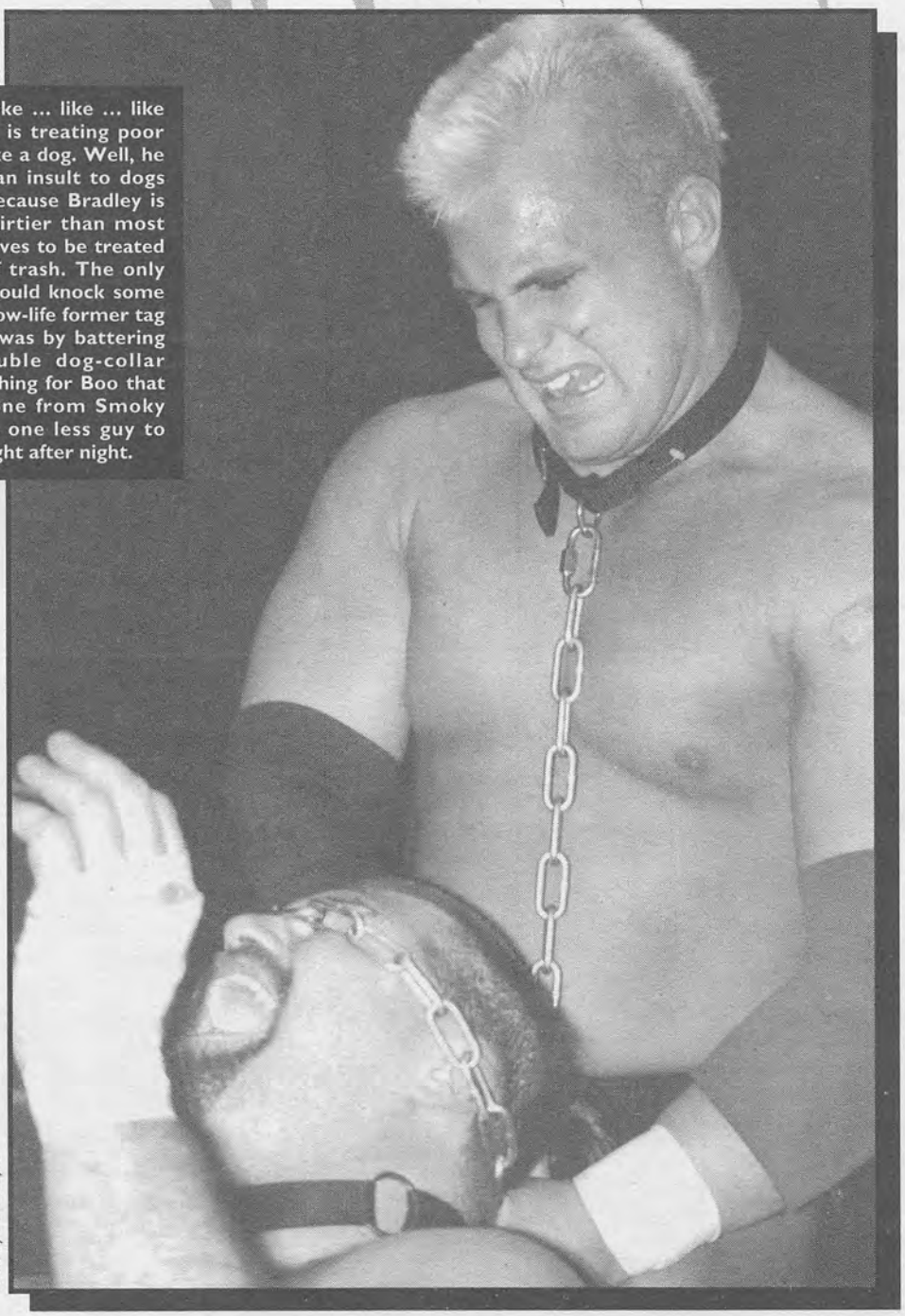
Warriors

MENG IS A ***WARRIOR.*** It's about time you wrestled! We were thrilled to see you enter WCW as a bodyguard last year. Like a true superstar, you took your time and surveyed the competition—what little there is for you in WCW! You slapped Dusty Rhodes around a few times. (That's something we'd all like to do). But you mostly enjoyed watching Col. Parker's back. Now you're wrestling again, and we couldn't think of a better first opponent than Hacksaw Duggan. After you're through with him, he'll realize he should be back in Glens Falls, New York, flipping burgers at some greasy spoon. Choose your next victim, big man!



TERRY FUNK IS A ***WARRIOR.*** There's at least one man in ECW who is definitely ready for retirement. His body has taken so many beatings that he just doesn't have much left. And he's too stupid to know it. That man is *not* Terry Funk. It's Cactus Jack. Funk is pushing 51, while Jack has just hit 30. But it's Jack who looks like a beaten old man when he wrestles Funk. Terry still has the energy of a 20-year-old. If Jack were smart, he'd hightail it out of ECW and get as far away from Funk as possible. Alas, Jack has never been accused of being smart. We predict Funk will be wrestling long after Jack retires.

Lookin' Bad



Why it looks like ... like ... like Chris Candido is treating poor Boo Bradley like a dog. Well, he is. But that's an insult to dogs everywhere, because Bradley is dumber and dirtier than most dogs and deserves to be treated like a piece of trash. The only way Candido could knock some sense into his low-life former tag team partner was by battering him in a double dog-collar match. Good thing for Boo that Candido is gone from Smoky Mountain; it's one less guy to beat him up night after night.

Photo by David Layne

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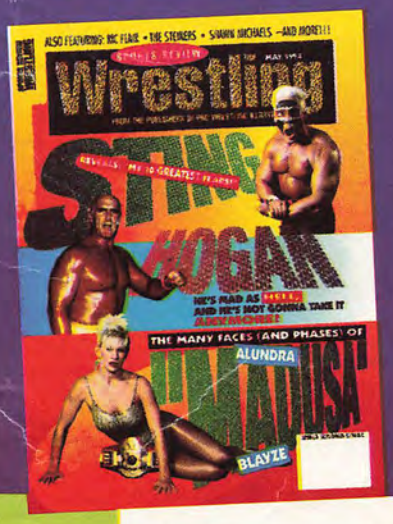

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